

Public Libraries

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The Librarian and Public Taste
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III

Now let us return to those other sides of our imaginary square where the trashy, and the inartistically written books for adults stand in serried ranks demanding entrance to our library. We are dealing here with the works that tend to vitiate, not the character of the reader, but his artistic sense. There are some artists who think this the worse crime of the two, but the plain people know better. We can afford to be less strict with the crudely written books, for the crude tastes that demand them tend in time to outgrow them. We must remember that in a democracy like ours there are readers of every degree of culture, and that the librarian is not here to cater to the college graduate alone. Schopenhauer once remarked that the man who writes for fools is always sure of a large audience, the fools being, I take it, all those persons who like books which the critic dislikes. On this theory we are a nation of ninety million people, mostly fools. Schopenhauer may have been a great philosopher of pessimism, but he would have made a mighty poor librarian. There is more real wisdom in the kindlier aphorism of the man who said: "God give them wisdom that have it; and those that are fools, let them use their talents."

After all, the world consists mainly of grown-up children—the common people, of whom Lincoln said that God must have loved them, for he made so many of them. The author who can please and entertain these people—so long as the entertainment is clean and wholesome—

has nothing to be ashamed of, whatever faults more critical people may see in his works. I am speaking now of such stories as "Graustark," "The rosary" and "The shepherd of the hills," books beloved of the people, and with enough of the breath of life in them to have survived several years. I would also include many a cruder book, such as "Quincy Adams Sawyer," which may not last more than a year, but which the people happen to want. What if some of these are improbable in action and meager in substance? Oblivion will look after its own—death will take care of dullness—but those who can enjoy nothing better also have rights which the librarian is bound to respect. In the matter of artistic taste the library cannot afford to be more than a step or two in advance of the multitude, or it will lose its hold on the average citizen entirely. The wisest of us have moods when a high proteid diet palls on us, when we do not hanker for "Sordello" or "Paradise lost," when we feel, as Alexander Smith puts it in his "Dreamthorp," that "reading Milton is like dining off gold plate in a company of kings: very splendid, very ceremonious—and not a little appalling." The public library certainly should have a fair sprinkling of the popular novels of the hour, even though the dollars invested in them shall have ceased to pay dividends in a year. The finer the art of these ephemeral stories the better, of course; but let us be broad-minded enough to include any clean fiction that will help the tired business man to forget his brain fag or that will take the jaded housewife's mind off her troubles after the children have gone to bed.

Ian Maclaren, who had an extraordinarily keen sense of the difference between a book that is only so much printed stuff and a good book which is "the precious life blood of a master spirit," confesses to having known an otherwise respectable man—suspiciously like himself—who had a devouring thirst for detective stories and was always grateful to the creator of "Sherlock Holmes."

"It is the merest pedantry," he adds, "for a man to defend himself with a shamed face for his light reading: it is enough that he should be able to distinguish between the books which come and go and those which remain. So far as I remember," he continues, "'The mystery of a hansom cab' and 'John Inglesant' came out about the same time, and there were those of us who read them both; but while we thought the 'Hansom cab' a very ingenious plot which helped us to forget the tedium of a railway journey. I do not know that there is a copy on our shelves. Certainly it is not lying between 'The ordeal of Richard Feverel' and 'The Mayor of Casterbridge.'"

The librarian, of course, will use her influence to promote the reading of the great and lasting books, in so far as there is a chance to exercise such influence unobtrusively with adult readers. There is always a chance to tell an inquirer which of two books is the better—if one has read them oneself. But the longer I live with books and with people the more I am impressed with the difficulty of one person's choosing another person's reading for him. It is a bolder undertaking than to issue a fiat as to which of the 57 varieties of breakfast-food your friends shall like best. So long as there is no poison in it, they may as well be allowed to eat the one they prefer, even though it be made mostly of sawdust. Some patrons of a library know the flavor of true literature, some do not—and both classes are helping to support the library. If we had some infallible test, such as Ian Maclaren used to employ for discovering whether an Englishman had wit or not, we might divide the sheep from the goats, but the goats would still have to

have their daily quota of empty tomato cans to satisfy their appetites.

Ian Maclaren's method was to tell the victim a certain story—about a clever man who was being bored by a dull one, and who, pointing to a stranger yawning under a far distant tree, turned to the bore and whispered dramatically, "Hush, we are already overheard!" If the patient responded to this story by smiling, he had wit; if not, he was something less complimentary than a lost sheep. We are greatly in need of some such test of literary appreciation. Perhaps the power to enjoy good essays is as safe a test as we can find. Any reader who will deliberately prefer the latest romance of Rex Beach or E. Phillips Oppenheim, under all circumstances, to his choice of the essays of Emerson, Stevenson, Burroughs, Dr Crothers, Agnes Repplier or Maurice Maeterlinck certainly has not yet learned to savor the delights of Attic salt. Yet there are thousands of such people in every town—and good, lovable people, too—with whom every librarian must reckon.

We all understand, of course, that fiction is not the bulk or backbone of an ideal library, though it has occupied so much of our attention in connection with public taste. The backbone of a good library must be built of biographies, histories, essays, travels, broad-minded religious works, art and literary criticism, popular technical treatises of various kinds, practical books that tell how to make things and do things, the latest and best works on sociology, economics and the like—and the librarian should do everything possible to facilitate access to these.

A library needs to advertise as much as a business house, and there are ways in which important new books can be called to the attention of the public, both through the local newspapers and through clubs and other channels. The library itself can and should be an active educational agency, not by refusing to furnish what entertainment seekers want, but by being always ready to furnish what knowledge seekers need. Nearly everybody is in earnest once in a while, even

the most frivolous of us. This is an era of women's clubs and drama clubs and other social groups that are lifting themselves above the common level by study and discussion. The library, by having on hand all the serious books that a club member needs when she has to write a paper, is doing educational work of the most valuable kind. The wide-awake librarian, therefore, will inform herself in advance concerning the program of the local study groups of all kinds, and shape her book lists accordingly.

At this point arises the question, How far should the librarian go in recommending for purchase certain classes of fact-books that reveal the dark or grimy aspects of life? The answer is, She should go much farther than in the case of doubtful fiction—should go, in fact, the full length of including any decently written book that deals honestly with past or present social conditions.

This applies, of course, to such books as Jane Addams's "A new conscience and an ancient evil," and to any other wise discussion of the city's blackest problems; but it also applies to more doubtful works, such as French memoirs that deal with noted or notorious characters, some of them far from virtuous; not only like the amazing and brilliant "*Mémoires*" of the Duc de Saint-Simon, who portrayed the court of Louis XIV and the Regency so vividly and voluminously that he has been an inexhaustible quarry for historians ever since; but also many less worthy and perhaps more unsavory memoirs dealing with historic periods and persons. These are books which no immature person is going to read for entertainment, and they will not pervert the mature reader.

A woman may sometimes take out such a book in preparing a paper on the causes of the French revolution, and then object, upon returning it, that the volume ought not to be in the library. Yet it has helped her in getting a correct view of the subject. Her cry of alarm is too much like that of the woman who walked over a bridge, then saw that it was marked "Dangerous" and ran back. There is a limit, of course, to what a

public library can tolerate, even on its history shelves, but the old prudish Victorian standards should not be allowed to dictate where it shall be drawn.

Every department of the library, from the reference room to the periodical table, brings its own problems; but I think I have touched on most of those that have to do with public taste. What we have conceded and denied to public demand in fiction books will apply with little change to the magazines. Every class of solid books, too, has its worthless candidates, which the librarian must spend hours in sifting out before money has been wasted upon them. The reference shelves are very important, and they are sure to consume some of the librarian's gray matter on the score of funds, but there are no vicious tastes to be combatted in this department; young people are not liable to corrupt their characters by reading the dictionary, or obtain unwholesome excitement from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

It remains only to sum up and see where we stand. Such conclusions as we have been able to come at may be recapitulated briefly in the following items of advice:

1. As a librarian, give the public what it wants, yet do this so wisely that it shall all the time be learning to want something better.
2. In fiction of doubtful morality, play safe, barring out all novels that are coarse or distinctly questionable.
3. In regard to grimy history, French memoirs, or frank treatises that seriously discuss sensational questions, be more liberal, remembering that such books are going to a more stable class of readers.
4. Where the reader's taste calls for fiction that is merely crude, artistically, give him the benefit of the doubt.
5. In the children's department, be generous in regard to romantic excitement, but inflexible in regard to high ideals.
6. Make it a rule to buy two or three serious works for one of fiction, and then see that the fiction is varied enough to appeal to all tastes.
7. Don't let any sect or clique dictate

in religious or economic matters; see that both sides of debatable questions are represented on your shelves.

8. Avoid narrowness in all things, go half way to meet any legitimate demand, but let your own personal interest be quietly and steadfastly on the side of the better books.

The ideal library is surely the one that gives the most artistic entertainment and useful knowledge in proportion to the funds at its command; and the ideal librarian is the one who does most to create such a library and to get all the people to use it. For the real test of a library's success is not its size, nor even its quality, but its efficiency. The thing that counts is service to the people. The mere collecting of good volumes on the shelves is not enough. The library that is too high or good for human nature's daily food is a failure. The library that is too low and popular to be a force for culture is likewise a failure. The librarian must steer between Scylla and Charybdis, must know what to concede to public taste and what to deny; and this knowledge is gained by studying not only books but men and women. It is as important to know life as it is to know literature, for the librarian's lifelong task is to bring the two into closer relations.

No library is ever perfect, any more than it is ever complete; but it is a success in proportion as it becomes a center of thought and culture, and radiates wisdom and entertainment to all classes. The nature of the public demand, which differs with the community, must always be the librarian's chief guide in the choice of new books; but this is by no means the only guide, nor can it always be followed. The librarian must inform himself about new books in a dozen ways—by dipping into sample copies, by reading reviews in trustworthy magazines and newspapers, and by talking to people who keep up with new books in special lines. The *A. L. A. Booklist*, of course, is a constant mentor, but it is not wise to follow any one authority slavishly. It is well to be broader than any one critic or group of critics. Be as broad in your standards as the whole range of tastes from that of

the humble washerwoman to that of the cultured bank president. The library board and its book committee, of course, will have a final say upon the book lists, but the hard work has to be done by the librarian, and it is really his or her judgment, in close touch with varying public needs, that must be the dominating force in shaping the character of the library. It is a position of honor and responsibility. You will succeed best, I believe, if you go into the work resolved to estimate public taste always above its face value—to regard people as better than they sometimes appear—and to give the work more of your thought and of your very self than the rather meager salary can repay. Then you will have a right to feel that you are engaged in one of the noblest employments which our complex modern life can offer, and that your conscientious work in it, if well done, will live long after you to bless your memory.

(Concluded.)

When once you have learned that it is as sure a sign of wisdom to say you do not know as to say you do know, when you have learned that it is pretense and not ignorance that is shameful, when you want to be esteemed for nothing except what you really are, and to hate nothing so much as to be praised for what you are not, then you can be at ease in any company, everybody from servant to savant will enjoy you. Genuineness and modesty are the keys of friendship.

The habit of positivity has the true flavor of ignorance, for if one is always certain one is usually wrong. Humbugs and impostors never hesitate, but when you talk to a man of genuine learning, mature experience and thorough culture, such a man as Mark Hopkins or President Eliot, the thing that strikes you most in him is his almost childlike modesty.—*Frank Crane*.

Power to think for one's self, power to understand those one does not agree with—these two things are absolutely essential to peace, harmony, and co-operation in a self-educating and self-governing community.—*Lyman Abbott*.

Bailment in the Library

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A bailment, in law, is the delivery of goods for some purpose, upon a contract, express or implied, that after the purpose has been fulfilled they shall be returned, or otherwise dealt with according to directions. When I lend a knife, send a package by express, rent my household furniture or leave my hat with a friend while I take a sprint, I become what the law calls a "bailor" and the person with whom I am dealing becomes a "bailee."

A large part of what a library does, in its public work, consists of bailments. The delivery of a book to a reader, or to an expressman, or to a library messenger, constitutes the library a bailor, while its acceptance of a book on approval or as an inter-library loan, or its checking of a hat or umbrella for a reader, make it a bailee.

These different acts, however, are not all the same in law, nor do they involve the same kind of responsibility on the part of the bailee. As generally stated, the law recognizes three kinds of bailment—one for the sole benefit of the bailee, as when he borrows a watch; one for the sole benefit of the bailor, as when he asks a friend to take care of his watch for him, and one for the mutual benefit of bailor and bailee as when a man leaves his watch with a watchmaker to be repaired for pay. In the first case the bailee must take extraordinary care of the object bailed, and is liable for the smallest degree of neglect; in the second he need only take slight care, and is liable only for gross neglect; in the third, he must take ordinary care and is responsible for ordinary neglect.

All these different kinds of bailment take place in a library and it is well for us to realize how slight a circumstance may make a difference in the class to which an act of the sort must be assigned, and therefore in the responsibilities involved.

For instance, the ordinary lending of a book for home use in a free library is a bailment for the sole benefit of the bailee and the greatest possible degree of responsibility is therefore placed upon him.

But if the library maintains a pay duplicate collection and the reader selects his book from it, the bailment becomes at once for the mutual benefit of bailor and bailee. The latter gets the use of the book and the former is paid for such use, so that the degree of care that the bailee must exercise is not now great, but only ordinary. He must, in other words, take only such care of the book as he would be likely to take if it was his own, while in the case of a free loan he must take much greater care.

Suppose the library is being paid by the municipality in a lump sum for the service that it renders. It is possible that such payment would make every loan of a book a bailment of the mutual benefit class. In this event a borrower for home use from the New York or the Buffalo public library is not bound, by the common law, to take as much care of his book as a borrower from the public library of Boston or Chicago or St. Louis. In the former case the money paid by the municipality to the library is in pursuance of an agreement between them that the library shall do certain public service for a subsidy; in the latter case the library is simply a department of the municipality, supported, like other departments, by taxation. In both cases the public furnishes the money and gets the service, but the mechanism is different.

Consider, again, the free loan of a book whose user keeps it out over time and is charged a fine therefor. This does not really alter the relations between bailor and bailee. Several of the legal definitions of bailment lay stress on the return by the bailee of the thing bailed at the precise time and under the precise conditions specified at the time of bailment, so that in holding his book the user is acting in a particularly indefensible manner. But it is quite common to regard a library fine as a payment for an extension of use. Were it such in reality the obligation of extraordinary care would at once drop to that of ordinary care.

It has been specifically decided by the courts that a bailee must apply the object bailed only to the purpose for which it was borrowed; can not permit any other

person to use it, can not keep it beyond the time limit and can not keep it as a pledge for demands otherwise arising against the bailor. This rule is applicable to all classes of bailments, and the question of the degree of care to be exercised by the bailee is not involved. A bailee who makes a different or other use of the property than that for which it is entrusted to him, by failing to return it at the time specified, or by permitting others to use it when it was entrusted to him merely for his own use, is guilty of a breach of the contract, and may be held because of such unauthorized action to have converted the property to his own use, thus giving the bailor the right to sue him for its value. This is true whether the bailment be one for mutual benefit or one for the benefit of the bailor alone, or one for the benefit of the bailee alone. In case a fine has been paid, however, although, as stated above, it cannot in any proper sense be regarded as payment for an extension of the use of the book, so as to change the character of bailment, it does operate to prevent the library from taking the position that the delinquent has converted the book, by failing to return it as agreed.

The obligation not to let another person use the object bailed is of interest to librarians. The borrower of a book usually considers that it is proper for him to let another person use it within the limits of time imposed by the library, or even outside those limits, if he is willing to pay his fine. Probably no library would think it worth while to interfere under ordinary conditions; but in case of loss or damage by the third person, the bailee, it is clear, becomes personally responsible, at least if the library is free. That he is so if the book has been rented for money is not so clear.

An interesting point, since the state of Louisiana keeps the old French civil law instead of the English common law which obtains in all the other states, is that the civil law requires the bailor for hire to keep the thing in repair, whereas by common law the obligation to repair depends on agreement or custom. It may thus be that in one state of the Union the re-

sponsibility of the book-borrower in a pay-library to make good the effects of even ordinary wear is greater than in the other parts of the country.

Libraries are frequently called upon to make good the loss of some article of clothing or of personal property lost or stolen in the library building. Here the object, if in the custody of the library at all, is so in bailment, the library being the bailee. The bailment here is generally of the kind where only the bailor benefits and the bailee is hence not obligated to take even ordinary care. Gross negligence, in case of loss, must be established if it is to be held responsible. And if the article is simply left on a reading-room table or chair, it would have to be established that a true bailment had been made, by its delivery into the custody of the library. Probably this could not be maintained unless the attention of some attendant had been called to the position of the article and the attendant, by accepting the situation had constructively taken charge of it. Even so the bailment would still be of the loose kind noted above.

The situation might possibly be changed, although this seems improbable, if the clothing or umbrella were left in a checking room under compulsion, in compliance with a regulation of the library, for instance, forbidding readers to take umbrellas into the reading rooms. It might be maintained in this case that the bailment was for the benefit of both parties, or even that of the library alone. In the latter case the slightest amount of negligence resulting in loss would make the library liable. Whether a court would presume, from the existence of such a regulation, that all articles checked were deposited under compulsion, or whether it would inquire what was in the mind of each reader in each particular instance, it is hard to say. I have on this point the following legal opinion from competent authority:

"I hardly think that a regulation requiring coats and umbrellas to be left in a checking room under compulsion, would change the character of the bailment with regard to such articles, if this

service be rendered free of charge by the library, and no charge is made for the use of books. In such case, I think, the bailment resulting from the checking of an umbrella or coat would be one for the benefit of the bailor rather than of the bailee, inasmuch as such a regulation would be regarded as a reasonable one with respect to articles of the character mentioned; but I know of no decided case in point."

Suppose the librarian sends by a library messenger some material to the cataloging department and also a personal note to a cataloger involving a purely personal matter. With respect to the former the messenger is a bailee for hire, but regarding the latter the bailment is entirely for the benefit of the bailor. He is bound, therefore, to take greater care of the library material than of the note.

The courts have held that in bailments for storage, for hire, the bailee acquires a right to defend the property as against third parties and strangers, and is answerable for failure to do so. Books in the custody of a messenger, therefore, should not be given up except on the conditions under which they were entrusted and the messenger not only has the right to defend them by any means that it would be lawful to use in protecting his own property, but is answerable for failure to do so.

These duties and responsibilities of the bailee are, of course, subject to statute law, if any such has been enacted in regard to the particular kind of bailment considered. If there is a state law or a city ordinance prescribing, for instance, that a library book shall be returned at the time set by the library, and giving the library power to exact a fine for delay, this would govern the case so far as it went. Such laws and ordinances, however, have largely been drafted in accordance with the general law of bailment, and in the many questions of detail that they do not specify, the library's responsibilities on the one hand and its power to hold the reader to his responsibilities on the other, would still be governed by this general law.

A Few Brickbats from a Layman

I am a layman, but I have studied somewhat the history of the library movement, have made a good many observations in a good many places and possess a high idea of the library profession. All of which leads me to say a few plain words. And since I expect to express myself in no uncertain terms, I crave the protection anonymity.

Librarians are poorly paid. The chief reason for this is the fact that the library movement is a new movement and taxpayers have not yet come to appreciate it sufficiently to show a willingness to give it adequate support. Moreover, tax rates are increasing coincidentally with a decrease in returns from investments. From year to year demands for additional money to run municipalities become more and more insistent, and as a comparatively new claimant for financial recognition the library is slow in coming to its own.

Of course, those on whom the duty devolves of presenting the claims of libraries are boards and librarians. Since the members of most library boards come largely from the law, the ministry, the teaching profession and women's clubs, library boards are seldom well informed on the subject of taxation. We never associate a very large knowledge of taxation with the ministry, the teaching profession and women's clubs. However, if the average library board lacks expert knowledge on the subject of taxation, what can we say of the librarian whose business it is to have a thorough knowledge of the various matters that enter into her work? We can say without fear of contradiction that many young lady librarians know about as much about taxation as they do about lunar politics. Assuming that the average library board knows comparatively little about taxation, there is reason for this, since most board members do work that is more or less foreign to the business world; but is there any excuse at all for librarians to be ignorant on this subject when it is the most important subject connected with the advancement of their profession?

Coupled with this ignorance of librarians is a tendency among some of them to berate boards for their niggardliness in not providing funds ample to pay first-class salaries and meet all the other needs of library work, when the task of getting more money for library support is far from a simple and easy one and necessitates for its successful accomplishment primarily an intimate knowledge of the subject of taxation. Sometimes board members need a lot of light on the subject of taxation; sometimes they need inspiration after they have received light; and sometimes they need a good will stimulus after they have received both light and inspiration. Who is going to provide them with eyes that will enable them to see, fill them with inspiration that will put them in the right attitude for action and stimulate their will powers to insure action? If not the librarian, who, pray?

Again, many young women today enter the library profession because they have failed at some other work or because they desire a soft snap or because it is a means to a livelihood. I may be taken to task for this statement, but it is true nevertheless. Of course, all such young women are millstones fastened to the neck of the library profession. Let me pause here to deny with emphasis that all young women who have followed other vocations fail in library work. Many librarians are by virtue of their experience in other callings fitted to become and do become our best librarians. However, how many of our young women adopt library work in preference to any other work, fully cognizant of its large responsibilities and its numerous requirements, because they feel they will be happier and more successful in the library field than they would in any other? Not an overwhelming majority of them, I fear, but I believe the number is increasing from year to year. As soon as the library profession has disposed of the young women that have failed in other lines of work, has largely eliminated the young women whose highest ambition is to become anchored to some kind of a soft snap and has graduated

with dishonor, the young women who emphasize solely the salary feature of library work, it will take a big step forward.

After excluding the discards of other callings, the soft snap lovers and the mercenary group, we have left the real artists in the library profession. These, again, may be divided into several classes. There is, first, the show librarian, the young lady who makes a specialty of those features of library work that are seen of men. She is a delightful talker on books and all other matters of interest in the library, she delivers addresses before clubs, schools and other organizations, she writes for publications about the wonderful results of her work, she is affable and sociable and popular, she is an adept at the art of making all kinds of displays, she is a success in keeping herself in the public eye, she is well educated and knows the technical side of library work to a nicety; but when it comes to work behind the scenes, the work that the great outside world knows nothing about, have a care, for this is sadly neglected. Her accounts with the publisher and other creditors are nearly always in a tangle, cataloging is neglected, her sanctum shows signs of disorderliness, the staff becomes demoralized, books are sent to be rebound at the slightest provocation, dust accumulates, petty extravagances play havoc with the library income and a greater or less degree of chaos prevails. Once such a librarian in one of the larger libraries of the country employing young women as library heads left her position to accept another and it took the new librarian a full year to straighten out the inside work of the library and develop some semblance of orderliness and system among the staff, who had sadly degenerated under the old regime. It was a herculean task and yet no one on the outside had any conception of the big job the new librarian had on her hands.

Then, there is the business librarian. She has just as good an education and knows just as much about library technique as the show librarian, but the one ambition of her life is to have the inside

of the library run as smoothly as the motor of a high-grade automobile. First, she sets the staff a good example and in a short time they are models in orderliness and punctuality. Her bills for books and all other supplies are never in dispute, the most perfect system prevails in every department of the library, she can account at any moment for every cent of money spent, she operates under the budget system and gets maximum results with the library income because of her economic management. But this young woman does not have so much time for all kinds of outside work and some of the people on the outside are inclined to think that she is very much inferior to the show librarian. We will admit that she is open to criticism because of the fact that the outside features of the work of the library are neglected. But you who know them both, which one would you choose if you had to make a choice between the two? I know which one I would choose because I have seen both kinds work.

Then, there is the middle-of-the-road class of librarians, who steer their course between the show librarian on the one hand and the business librarian on the other. It is not necessary that I go into details in describing this class of librarians. Their success in the library profession depends altogether on which one of the two types of librarian they most resemble. One thing is certain and that is, the librarian who looks after the inside work of the library in such a way that everything receives conscientious attention and at the same time devotes ample time to outside work is the ideal librarian. If she emphasizes the one or the other somewhat, she is still a most valuable acquisition to the profession. But if she goes to one or the other of the two extremes results will not be satisfactory, though they will be far more satisfactory in the case of the business librarian than in the case of the show librarian. In the case of the show librarian the library itself will suffer; in the case of the business librarian, the public will suffer.

I am quite sure I would be in the gravest danger if PUBLIC LIBRARIES were to divulge my name. But I feel confident

that they will not because they know that I am speaking out of experience and they realize that criticism, kindly and well meant, often does a lot of good. There are few professions that cannot at times profit by criticisms from laymen. And the library profession, I believe, is no exception.

Print Collections in Small Libraries

By a collection of prints I mean a collection of etchings, engravings on copper, wood engravings, mezzotints and similar pictures, selected and preserved on account of the work of the engravers and not on account of the subjects of the pictures. Collections of prints of this kind are found in a few of our largest libraries, in some of our art museums and in a very few of our smaller libraries.

Mr FitzRoy Carrington has just been appointed curator of prints in the Boston museum of fine arts. He has also been engaged by Harvard university to give each year a few lectures on prints. Mr Carrington has been for more than 20 years actively engaged in the business of print collecting and print selling. In the Boston museum he will continue to edit, and the museum will publish, a journal called the *Print Collector's Quarterly*, which he has already carried on for about two years in New York City.

He asked me to contribute to this journal a brief article on print collections in small libraries. I did so, and it appeared in the number for February, 1913. In the preparation of this article I wished to have information concerning the existence and character of collections of prints to be found in the libraries of this country, especially the smaller ones. I prepared, therefore, in June, 1912, the following letter of inquiry and sent it to several hundred libraries of the United States:

June 26, 1912

To the Librarian:

I wish to learn about collections of prints in small libraries. Will you kindly help me by answering the questions below and mailing this sheet in the envelope enclosed at the earliest possible moment? And very greatly oblige,

Yours truly,
J. C. DANA.

Name of library.
 Has it a collection of prints or engravings?
 If so describe it briefly.
 How many prints?
 Are they chiefly wood, copper, etchings, or what?
 How many are framed and shown?
 Does the library have a fund for purchasing prints? If so, how much?
 Any further information?
 Do you know of any small libraries which have print collections?

To this inquiry I received 92 replies. They show that librarians have as yet, as a group, paid no attention whatever to this very important field of art. They may be tabulated as follows:

To the first question, "Have you a collection of prints or engravings?" 82 answered No, meaning that they have no "Collection of Prints" as I defined that phrase in the beginning of this paper.

Of those who say they have a collection of prints in the strict meaning of the word, a collection which is an integral part of the library and is being added to from time to time, there are six (6).

Of those who say they have collections which have been presented to them, but are not treated as collections of prints, simply stored, there are four (4). The facts disclose a lamentable indifference to what should be one of a librarian's most enjoyable duties. By way of comment I venture to quote a few sentences from the *Print Collector's Quarterly*.

Prints form important parts of many books. It should be part of a librarian's duty, and it may easily become one of the pleasures of his calling, to encourage an intelligent interest in all the arts which are employed in book-making. Therefore every library, however small, should have a collection of prints, even though it is, in its beginning, nothing more than a collection of illustrations from books and journals of recent years. Once begun, it will surely grow, in due course, into a collection embracing many prints properly so-called, pictures which owe their charm, their beauty, and their value to the genius of the artist-engravers who produced them. Such a collection, even if very modest and inexpensive, can be so selected, arranged, and labeled as to illustrate quite clearly the different methods and

processes by which prints are made, to suggest wherein lies the charm they have for those who collect, admire, and study them, and to form an outline of the history of book illustration.

Prints thus gathered, classified, mounted, and labeled immediately take on a certain dignity and worth. They mean something. They add to the library's importance in the eyes of the discriminating. They invite attention, inquiry, study and what is particularly worth while, they invite contributions from print-lovers of the vicinity.

The small library's collection of prints may not only be quite inexpensive in itself: it is also inexpensive to store and care for, though if a generous patron makes it possible, the small library's print-collection may begin, of course, at the top of the ladder instead of at the bottom, with a few examples of the best work of men of acknowledged talent. But even if good fortune brings a beginning in this style, it should not be forgotten that a public collection of prints has a special mission: to develop an interest in and a love for the graver's art in as many as possible of the library's patrons. A public collection is not made for profit or for hoarding, but for daily enjoyment and for promotion of the print enjoying and collecting habits. And for these purposes a very simple and inexpensive collection, gathered by the librarian himself and his friends in the community, will often prove a more effective teacher than would a collection of prints too rare to be often handled, too large in number to be framed, and so costly that the library can make no worthy additions to it. If a small library has one of these latter collections it may well begin another of the homely, popular kind here suggested, if only to attract the attention of the public to, and prepare it for an appreciation and study of, the more costly one.

A desire to learn of the engraver's art on the part of the librarian, a few sympathetic friends, a modest beginning, an occasional loan exhibit of examples of the best work,—this seems the procedure which promises the best results.

When one considers that the beginnings of print collecting are so simple, the delights so many, the educational influence so persistent and yet so absolutely non-didactic, the growth to something that even the connoisseur must approve so inevitable, and the companionship of others in a most delightful pursuit so assured, one marvels that every library in the country is not paying homage to this mother of the graphic arts—the print.

J. C. DANA.

Staff Meetings in a Reference Department

One problem of a reference attendant is to make every new question answered and each day's experience count for increased knowledge and ability for the future, and the problem of a reference department as a whole is to make the sum total of the day's work of the entire reference staff count for added efficiency in the future work of the department. One way to bring this about is the staff meeting.

For two years before the writer entered library work he was an agent of one of the large New York life insurance companies. One afternoon of each week was given up to a meeting of the local staff, some 12 to 15 men. Every few months the men employed in the state got together for a meeting and once a year the general superintendents went to New York City for a conference. These various staff meetings were the means which the company used to arouse and keep up the interest of its agents. I have not ceased to admire the many ingenious plans for contests, prizes, bonuses and what not which came from the home office and which were hatched at the staff meetings. It is certain that staff meetings were business getters for they taught the younger agents the way to write a man with or without his consent and they created a friendly but lively rivalry which brought results. A meeting of a reference staff in much the same way arouses and stimulates interest, sets a certain standard of efficiency and gives to each assistant the advantage of the experience of the other members of the staff.

The short experience of two years has clearly demonstrated that to our reference department weekly staff meetings have proved their value.

During the first year meetings were held once a week from 8 to 9 a. m. The reference staff then consisted of four persons and the plan of the meeting was to give the first half hour to a discussion of government documents. During the week previous a study was made of the documents of several government bureaus and these were taken up at the meeting. It was possible during the year to cover in a superficial way all the departments of the government. Such a course was especially valuable to the younger members of the staff but also of advantage to the ones who had been accustomed to handle documents.

In the summer of 1911 what were formerly the art and periodical departments became divisions of the reference department. In the meantime a technology librarian had been added to the staff. As the department is now organized there are, besides several part time assistants and the pages, three assistants in the general reference room, two in the periodical room, one in the newspaper room, three in the technology and art room and the reference librarian who spends some time in all of the rooms. With the work thus specialized and carried on in several rooms, it renders it all the more necessary that there should be some common bond of unity.

Since there has been the larger staff the meetings have been held from 8:15 to 9 a. m. on each Tuesday. We have continued to have the questions of the week discussed as during the first year. And although there is a sameness in having week after week each assistant give her important questions, still the questions are not the same and the interchange of questions opens up to the assistants in the different divisions the resources of the reference department as a whole as perhaps nothing else would. In fact, it is often remarkable how the work of the different divisions overlap. For example, the attendant in the newspaper room may speak of a government report of

which he has seen an advance notice in one of the newspapers. Very often when one of the assistants is giving her questions, an assistant in another division will speak up and say, "Oh, do you have material on that subject? We have some, too, but I am very glad to know that there is more." For instance, an attendant in the periodical room may not have heard of the late hearings of a Congressional committee on the United States Steel Corporation, but if this is brought to her attention, when the demand arises she will not be satisfied to give to her public simply current magazine material on the subject but will make use of the hearings also.

Such an interchange of questions sets a certain standard of efficiency. For each assistant in giving her questions gives also the source of information and if there is a better authority or better material, another assistant is very apt to speak of it and thus not only is the particular question brought out but there is also stimulation to know thoroughly the reference collection.

In addition to the questions one of the assistants takes about 10 minutes to report on a topic which has been assigned to her the week before. These topics have varied greatly. We have had reviews of books and articles in library periodicals, exhibits of recent accessions of notable art books, talks on the British Museum, the Bibliothèque Nationale and other libraries, and talks by the technology librarian on aeronautics and its literature, and on the geology of the state of Washington. There has certainly been no system about this, whatever has occurred to me from week to week I have asked the assistants to report on. If they have considered it a bore to get ready for these special reports they at least have had the good grace not to show it. And although the staff as a whole may not gain much from a 10 minute talk on ancient libraries, still it is worth while for the one who has prepared herself for the talk.

There is a freedom from restraint in staff meetings which encourages a little joviality now and then. Certainly no

meeting lacks the note of the humorous when the questions and experiences of the week are related. Thus a colored lady who asks for "The man without a country" in verse and really wants "The lay of the last minstrel" brings joy to the whole staff and not merely to the attendant who waits on her.

Several times during the year instead of the regular meetings the staff has had breakfasts served in the library lunch room.

No small advantage from staff meetings is the good feeling and good understanding which they tend to promote among the members of the staff. Without such an understanding a library staff proves itself about as efficient as an engine without oil. CHARLES H. COMPTON, Reference librarian,
Seattle public library.

Exhibit of Special Collections

The Princeton university library is making a special Commencement exhibition of the no less than seven unique special collections received during the past year. The exhibit includes: 1) Three additional volumes from the Hoe sale, given by Cyrus H. McCormick, '79, on Vespucci, and bringing the collection of rare original editions on Vespucci up to eight, 2) A deposit collection of over 300 books of Cruikshankiana, with broadsides, water colors, autographs, etc. These are from Mr R. W. Meirs, '88, and form possibly the choicest collection on this great caricaturist in America, 3) A collection of Cruikshankiana presented by Alexander Van Rensselaer, '71, 4) Additions to the Patterson collection of Horaces of unusual interest, including several manuscripts and the first English translation, 5) Selections from a collection of 623 Babylonian tablets presented by various alumni, 6) A collection of 35 tablets presented by Wilfred J. Funk, '09, and Geo. W. Gilmore, '83, 7) A partial exhibition of the Hutton collection of association books and pictures. The late Mr Lawrence Hutton (Princeton M. A.) numbered among his friends many of the best known literary men and actors of

his time. He left his collection to trustees to be located in some safe place for a permanent memorial, and, according to what is understood to have been the personal preference of the collector, who became an ardent Princetonian, it has been presented by the testamentary trustees to the university for such memorial. This collection has been only partly arranged but several hundred books and autographed pictures have been placed in the alcove with the Hutton death mask collection.

Our Naval Program

For the fiscal year of 1911, the naval appropriation was \$131,350,854, which is in itself considerably more than twice as large as the net expenditures of the government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1861. The total appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, for wars past and prospective were \$390,022,861. This figure includes the appropriations for the army, the navy, fortifications, the military academy, and pensions. This amount was approximately 61 per cent of our entire appropriations for the fiscal year.

Each battleship costs when fitted for action \$12,000,000. The cost of maintenance averages about \$1,000,000 a year, and the life of a ship may be said to aggregate 10 years. Accordingly the total cost of a ship from the day its keel is laid to the day it is consigned to the junk heap is about \$22,000,000.

The enormous expenditures for military armaments would do much to rehabilitate our national waterways as effective agencies in the solution of our great commercial and traffic problems and prevent the enormous loss by floods. They would reclaim the enormous tracts of desert and arid lands in the far West and transform untold desolation into smiling tracts of fertile farms, with their contribution of agricultural products to lower the present high cost of living. They would enable the government to enter upon new fields of enterprise from which it is now prohibited owing to the enormous aggregate of our national expenditures.—*Theodore E. Burton.*

The Newer Shrine

In the days when still triumphant was the universal church,
There did gather men and women, fervent
in their eager search,
In their longing for salvation at the hands
of holy priest,
Disregarding time or distance, for the
spiritual feast.
Rich and poor would then assemble, wise,
untutored, young and old,
Knight and lady, serf and beggar, all would
come into the fold.
At the fount of sacred knowledge all would
slake their burning thirst,
All were on an equal footing, none was last
and none was first.

But those days are long since over, and
democracy today
Gathers at another fountain, there to
quench their thirst away.
In the center of the city, lo! majestic,
proud, grandiose,
Rises now the people's temple where the
knowledge seeker goes.
Rich and poor alike are welcome, saint and
sinner, man and child,
Student, teacher, tradesman, laborer, each
and all are here beguiled.
Here the treasures of all ages, mental,
spiritual lore,
Slake the thirst of every seeker, ent'reng
through the open door.
And the priest?—is here a priestess, not
on altar raised up high,
But a woman on the level with the patrons
passing by.
And the temple?—Spireless rising, where
the footsteps gently fall,
Is the Public Library, is the people's sacred
hall.

Fargo, N. D.

MAX BATT.

A writer commenting on the Nippur library, comments on the library devices evidently in use at that period, with the remark that they compare favorably with the most up-to-date library methods of today. There is the tablet containing a list of books most in demand. Other tablets contain general catalogs, classification of books by subjects, as well as lists of books on special subjects.

Attention is called to the fact, also, that Seneca in his day said:

"Nowadays the library takes rank with a bathroom, as a necessary ornament of the house. Productions of men whom we revere are paid for at a high price, to adorn and beautify a wall."

Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuation of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Vacation time.—For the eighteenth time in as many years, PUBLIC LIBRARIES takes its accustomed leave of absence. The two months intervening till return will be used to find new helpfulness, new interests and renewed power to do the work better than it has ever been done. The time will not be without its value both to the readers and the writers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Suggestions for A. L. A.—There can be no question of the value of the suggestions themselves contained in the recent symposium as to "What the A. L. A. might do." Of course if no consideration of these opinions is given by those in authority in A. L. A., their value to library progress is nil, just as good seed in unfruitful ground may lie for ages without producing.

A brief review of the opinions expressed in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for May and June shows the following:

Mr Legler:—

Suggests consolidation of many committees and their funds into a strong committee of limited membership with authority and means to investigate the library situation not only in this country, but abroad. It would be expected by this means to secure full knowledge of the resources and capabilities of the movement, as well as of the vital forces behind it here and elsewhere.

Mr Little:—

Shows that while library literature contains a wealth of stimulating discussion and varying opinions, there is a dearth of facts based on actual experience and real knowledge, supported by the *imprimatur* of the A. L. A.

Mr Walter:—

Calls attention to the fact that the library is not yet realized as an integral part of the plan of public education by the general public, and that the public and university libraries have been tossed into any vacant place in the general system, or made the victim of the economist for revenue only. Attractive literature written from the popular, not the professional viewpoint, and more scholarly articles, aimed at scholars, and printed in their, not our, professional publications, are both needed.

Mr Burpee:—

Questions whether the machinery of the association has kept pace with the development of the library idea.

Mr Blackwelder:—

Calls low salaried persons, usually untrained, waste of money. Makes comparison of libraries with business world methods and finds muddy library administration.

R. H. Johnson:—

Warns libraries against parcel post as at present provided. Makes a plea for action by A. L. A. looking to interests and rights of that large section of A. L. A. formed by membership of assistants.

Miss Wootten:—

Urges influence of A. L. A. for the establishment of libraries as educational agencies at army posts.

Miss Rathbone:—

Points out lack of coöperation with and consequent lack of appreciation of the library in municipal bodies.

Mr Virgin:—

Urge more up-to-date preparedness in supplying the literature of social and public importance, and a confining of the library's part in reforms to the circulation of their literature. He also makes a plea for more of a forum for general discussions at A. L. A. meetings.

Mr Shaw:—

Calls attention to the obligation that library workers of today owe to the founders and early workers of A. L. A. for the fine coöperative spirit which has been the

largest asset in the association. Its conservation is urged.

Mr Kerr:—

Presents strong argument for a systematic effort on a country-wide scale to arouse more general appreciation of the educational function of the library, which he believes will accomplish fully as much by the reflex influence on the methods and attitudes of the libraries as by the response of the educational and general public. A very decided lack, in his judgment, is the want of the conviction that the library is an integral part of public education, and is educational in its methods and results.

Miss Isom:—

Presents strong argument for a scheme of a uniform system of accounting, suitable for libraries, prepared and approved by A. L. A. Other organizations, such as the Interstate commerce commission, state auditors, municipal bureaus, etc., provide such schemes and such a plan would be of great help to libraries. There are no records giving the experience or approved methods of the accounting of libraries, and a questionnaire on expenditures is futile, because accounts and records are handled so differently that comparisons are not possible. Miss Isom also protests against giving testimonials without careful and conscientious examination of material.

Mr Koopman:—

Believes it would be an excellent thing for the A. L. A. to map out the field which is peculiarly its own, and then find out those things in it which have been taken care of, and those that are neglected. Conditions are changing, and such a plan should be done systematically. Other questions suggested are shelfroom, lighting and heating, which it ought to be possible to actually settle.

Dr Bestwick:—

Does not think that papers for discussion at A. L. A. meetings ought to be written to order, dull papers on subjects of little interest, simply because they fit in with the program. More of a spirit of real contribution ought to be in evidence.

Mr Eastman:—

A. L. A. exists not so much for doing things, as to set up standards, hold out ideals, hold librarians together, helping them to choose books, and showing the people what their library is.

W. D. Johnston:—

Needs that are plain are 1) Scientific bibliographical research. 2) The scientific discussion of our problems in our professional journals. 3) Standards of professional training at least equal to those which obtain in the professions of law, medicine and teaching. A national organization ought to represent the established standards of a pro-

fession, rather than the ambitions or dreams of individuals.

Dr Richardson:—

Points out two lines where A. L. A. under present circumstances might make its force felt. The social center idea is developed in many communities, but it is usually for social functions of recreational character, with insignificant or no library features, while there are great libraries with few recreational features except the reading room. One of the great questions of the present time is as to whether the social center shall be made typically and predominantly spiritual through union with library and museum, or predominantly physical and merely diversional. The public library is the most hopeful starting point for meeting a profound demand of moderate society for a common meeting ground for its free intellectual and educational activities.

With enormous increase in the output of books and still more disproportionate output of periodicals, lately, the need for indexed aids prepared under intelligent and skilled bibliographical direction, is increasing fast. Many fields already lack adequate indexing apparatus.

A joint list of all books published before the year 1800, a joint list of all periodicals, one of incunabula and one of manuscript codices, ought not to be beyond the attainment of the A. L. A., and such enterprises ought to be so planned as to secure for themselves sufficient endowment. The association, ought, if it undertakes them, to attempt the raising of additional endowment for this class of work, and not merely to provide means for first editing and publication.

Mr. Davis:—

Suggests that the A. L. A. *Booklist* give assistance in selection of periodicals for the reading room along the line that is given for the choice of books. Information with regard to new periodicals and continuations ought to be included in the *Booklist*.

Mr Hanson:—

Avers that the A. L. A. devotes itself almost entirely to the public library and related movements, and that the university librarians are more and more thrown on their own resources. The university librarian feels strange in the national meetings, and is coming to have smaller and exclusive meetings of his own.

He thinks the A. L. A. analytics would be in better hands in the Library of Congress, as the class of books analyzed can have little interest for the average public library.

Mr Yust:—

Thinks the large number of branch libraries now being established would warrant the A. L. A. in publishing a list of

books suitable for a branch library, to be used by all cities inaugurating branches.

Thinks that a coöperating printing plan for blanks and forms which are in no way peculiar to any library might be launched by the A. L. A.

Mr Austin:—

Thinks that the A. L. A. should be more active in making known to scholars and writers the laws of bibliography and bibliographic references which have been worked out by the association to the end that there shall be more uniformity in printed matter and references.

Mr D. C. Brown:—

Why should not A. L. A. devote some of its time to the discussion of the ways and means of instructing the people in good literature, and in inducing the people to love and read great books?

It would not be possible, of course, to do at once all the things that are suggested but many of them could be started and all of them accomplished in time. And it might be well to state here, too, that not all the material sent in was used, simply from a lack of space at command. Only one letter was used in its entirety, and that one because the writer had so often felt that his opinions were not properly presented nor appreciated, and it was thought advisable at this time to give opportunity for full expression.

The A. L. A. meeting of 1913 will mark an important era in the history of the association and ought not be missed by a single member.

A new note.—The appointment of a woman, Miss Culverwell, to be librarian of the public library of Timaru, New Zealand, has created considerable discussion in that far off land. Such an appointment is an innovation there, and there are those who say that by the selection of a woman, a married man with a family to keep has been prevented from making a living; that there are delicate matters to be handled in connection with the library which can be discussed only with difficulty by a board and a woman

officer; and that it may be necessary at times to have a "chucker-out" to keep order in the library, and that a woman is therefore unfitted for the position. The *Timaru Post* remarks that it is no part of the council's business to distribute its appointments for the benefit of those who receive them; its duty is to the library and not to the selfish interest of the applicant, a very sensible view to take of it.

In the meantime, Miss Culverwell has taken the position, examined the needs of the library and made a report which shows that she is undoubtedly alive to the situation, has a most intelligent grasp of affairs and is not afraid of what is before her. Her ability and work are well-spoken of by that prime favorite among foreign visitors to A. L. A., Mr Herbert Baillie of Wellington, N. Z., who at the request of the trustees of the Timaru library reported on the library conditions there a year ago. Mr Baillie says, "She is a very capable woman and she would even hold her own in America." With even two such workers in New Zealand, and undoubtedly there are more, library matters in that "most wonderful country in the world," to quote Mr Baillie again, are bound to develop in the right directions.

A familiar bugaboo.—About once in so often, to quote Mrs Ruggles, someone starts a panic about danger of infection from library books, despite the fact that there is nothing to base it upon. The library periodicals have time and again set forth the fact that no authentic case of infection among library employes is on record. But the daily press persists in making copy on the subject. Some of the New York newspapers have lent their pages recently for sensational drivel about librarians being poisoned by germ-laden books. This was copied into other

papers, and a tempest in a teapot arose in the matter.

In view of the fact that a number of libraries in the East have recently reported the fact that they have bought disinfecting apparatus, there arises a suspicion that there may be a taint of commercialism here. Certain newspapers lately have been engaged in this sort of thing in some parts of the world, in an endeavor to sell death-dealing machines by reporting plans for war that did not exist.

A note of inquiry to Mr Anderson, Director of the New York public library, brings the reply:

As far as we can learn, there is not a word of truth in the report. The reporter was told that it was the belief of the library that there was nothing in the story. We have made diligent inquiry among our branch library staff, and our medical officer has also made an investigation, but we can find no justification for the report.

Query: Would this be an appropriate topic for discussion at the A. L. A.?—The percentage of fiction in the ordinary daily newspaper of our large cities.

A recent letter from Mr Chivers relating to the same subject, says:

You will remember some two years ago an expert of a New York corporation testified that he had never come across a case of infection by means of books except one, which was a very bad case, and I afterwards found out in calling upon him that this was from a ledger in a bank, the leaves of which would be opened hundreds of times compared to the use which an ordinary library book receives, and some infected clerk had constantly used his saliva and fingers for turning the pages. I was much relieved as a result of my further enquiries, to find that this expert considered the risk of danger from public library books to be 'nil.'

With ordinary precautions, and close coöperation with the boards of health, libraries can well refrain from spending the money which is called for by new-fangled disinfecting machines, and use it for purposes much more needed, and much more valuable to the community.

The loss of a strong friend.—The death of Francis G. Browne, editor of the *Dial*, is a distinct loss to the field of literary endeavor in America. His personal influence as well as his actual support was a power toward creating a congruous environment for those who are studying the development of human thought and feeling as they are expressed in the flood of print that is pouring out of the presses of today. His interest in all these was many sided—art, literature, education, the humanities, all received his careful attention, and his opinion always bore the weight that deliberate judgment involuntarily receives. When he spoke there was no uncertainty as to his opinion, but there was never evidence of hasty conclusions. And always the note of courage and hope sounded high and clear. His wide experience equipped him with a knowledge of the world's thought and his keen insight of men and affairs showed him the real things of life.

For one with strong opinions he was singularly free from prejudice. Sensitive, but strong, reserved but cordial in attitude, he gave one the feeling of tremendous resources ready for use but not to be imposed upon by insincerity.

Librarians especially will miss the high appreciation and the dignified expression of it, which Mr Browne so generously gave to their work. Hardly another writer in the country is in a position to do for library work what Mr Browne was so constant in presenting for many years.

For more than fifty years, Mr Browne stood for the best in literature and life, not only in Chicago and the West, but everywhere. His was a long and honorable career crowned with success, if the universal respect and affection of those whose lives he touched create a diadem worthy of such a man.

What the A. L. A. Might Do

The American library association has now been organized nearly 40 years, with the avowed intention of so systematizing the work of our libraries that the greatest good to the largest number at the least cost may be realized.

In doing this, a body of bibliographic laws has been developed and codified, so that the best ways of doing things and the reasons therefor have become fixed principles among all library workers of experience coupled with progressiveness.

To be sure, many years had to be spent in trial, comparison and elimination, before we knew ourselves what were the best methods, and were able to give a cogent reason why they were the best. It was a long stride from the first issue of Cutter's *Rules for a printed dictionary catalogue* to the *Catalog rules*, compiled by committees of the A. L. A. and the L. A. of England, but it represents the growth in one phase of our work very succinctly.

But this is only the first step in the right direction. Are we not ready for the second? What doth it profit us, if the book world, the writers of books and the makers of books go blissfully on ignoring all our canons? If a body of bibliographers have studied the problems of entry and citations for 40 years, are not the results entitled to consideration from those who use these same materials daily without a thought that there are laws underlying it all, that they should first know and, knowing, are bound to respect? Instead of this, all literature is full of the most haphazard references to printed material, often so distorted and incomplete that no one without a long experience at guessing what is intended is able to unravel the tangle, and he must at times give it up.

The writers of books, in many cases, think themselves too busy with more important things to take the time to learn the laws governing these things, and either regard their own ways, often lacking uniformity, as superior to all others, or slavishly follow the pattern set by others writing in the same field.

There are those that say bibliography should follow the fashion set by writers and not attempt to set the style. Only an experienced bibliographer knows what would happen should he attempt to deduce any uniformity from the examples thus far set by scholars, by which one is reminded of the story of the venomous toad who asked the centipede to explain the laws of locomotion, and in his attempt to illustrate, the centipede got so hopelessly mixed that he could not move, but rolled over in the ditch, a bewildered mass of legs.

Having codified the laws of bibliography for ourselves, are we not ready to take the next step and commend these laws to the learned world, to the effect that they may become the standard for the writing and printing of coming generations?

WILLARD N. AUSTIN.
Cornell university.

Sometime ago I wrote to the editor of the A. L. A. *Booklist*, asking for a list of books suitable for a branch library, hoping thereby to save time and labor. I did so with some hesitation lest it might be thought that libraries should compile such a list for themselves. The reply was comforting in that it acknowledged the propriety of my request but regretted the inability of the editor to supply such a list.

The names of several large libraries engaged in establishing branches were suggested as possible sources for obtaining such a list. An appeal to each of these libraries was likewise unsuccessful. So we are compiling it ourselves.

The large number of branch libraries now being established should warrant the publication of such a list and insure its usefulness. This fact ought also to make its preparation a comparatively simple problem. It might contain about 5,000 volumes so marked as to indicate a choice for branches of two, three and four thousand volumes. Although such a list would need to be modified to meet the requirements of each locality and like other lists it would soon be out of date, it would still be of real value not only to

libraries starting branches but also to small libraries throughout the country.

The Louisville free public library issued a list of Children's books for Christmas gifts. After the order had been filled, the type was held while the libraries on the mailing list were notified that they might secure copies of the list with their own imprint at the special rate of \$7.00 per thousand. As a result 30 libraries and six state library commissions ordered 28,500 copies of the list. Would it not be possible and worth while for the A. L. A. to prepare and print such lists from time to time, thereby rendering a valuable service to libraries?

Every library spends considerable money on the printing of blanks and forms which are in no way peculiar to any library. Could not the coöperative printing plan suggested above be extended to these blanks and forms?

WILLIAM F. YUST.

Rochester (N. Y.) public library.

I have been reading the suggestions for the A. L. A. in the current issue of PUBLIC LIBRAEIS. For some time I have wished that I might have such assistance as the A. L. A. Booklist gives for book selection in the selection of periodicals for my reading room. We consider our current list very carefully when it is time to renew our subscriptions and we invariably drop such periodicals as are not used. We try others in order to find those that will be most useful. We receive sample copies and announcements of new periodicals. We have subscribed for some of these and received one or two issues and no more. We subscribed for *National Waterways* and received three copies of the sample first copy and months later a second copy.

I have been thinking that I would write to Miss Bascom and ask whether notices of new and important periodicals might be published in the Booklist. It seems to me it would be worth while to investigate every new periodical that seems likely to be useful to the average public library, to ascertain whether it has financial backing that is likely to develop it, whether it has editorial and manager-

ial equipment that is likely to make it valuable, whether its prospective field is already occupied by an established and satisfactory periodical. A thorough investigation would take time and money, but the report should be valuable to members of the A. L. A.

The publication of notices of the very few great books in other languages that would interest immigrants speaking those languages might help the librarian of the small library to help these strangers in our midst.

OLIN S. DAVIS.

Public library, Laconia, N. H.

The A. L. A. is more and more coming to stand for the public and popular library movement, for the circulating library with its branches, its children's departments, its relations to the schools, and the many extension movements which are now uppermost in the library interests of America. It tends further to follow lines which approximate the field of the state commissions and libraries, and of the large number of special libraries which have been recently forging to the front, and whose work and problems are similar to those of certain departments of the popular library.

As for the relations of the public and the university library, while there is common ground, and a number of points where their problems and activities touch, there can be no question that, at any rate here in the United States, they tend away from one another. Under the circumstances, the A. L. A. must naturally throw in its lot with the larger movement, with the element which forms the large majority, and that is unquestionably not the university libraries. Even if to the latter were added the large reference libraries of the country, the result would be the same. With the A. L. A. devoting itself more and more to the public library and related movements, and the library schools shaping their curricula and instruction almost entirely with public library service in view, the university librarian is more and more thrown on his own resources. The national meeting offers less and less that would

directly concern his field of work. The great majority of those in attendance have either been educated with a view to a public library career or are actually in that field. It is not strange, therefore, that he should feel less at home in the national meetings, than in the minor conferences held yearly by such bodies as the New England college and university librarians, or the college and university librarians of the Middle West, where he can meet with associates engaged in his own field of work and can devote himself entirely to the consideration of questions that interest him and his own type of library. Under these circumstances, there must, as indicated, be some hesitancy on the part of a university librarian to take part in a symposium such as the one outlined.

One might call attention to such enterprises as the publication of the so-called A. L. A. analyticals, which it seems to me might far better be taken over by the Library of Congress in connection with its card distribution activities. The class of publications analyzed can have little interest for the average public library. Whether or not the Publishing Board should, instead of the present cards, print and distribute others, better suited to the needs of the public library, is a suggestion to be worked out by a representative of this type of library; at any rate, it will come with better grace from that quarter.

That the A. L. A. should have come to stand so largely for the popular and public library and the great movements which have emanated from and are closely bound up with it, and that the university and reference libraries, relatively few in number, should find themselves thrust more and more on their own resources, may to some of us be a matter of regret. At the same time, when it is considered how numerous are the public circulating libraries, large and small, and how many the library workers engaged in this field as compared with those associated with university and reference libraries, it is not difficult to see why the national, state, and city associations, so also the state libraries and commissions, are devoting their time and

resources to the service of the former rather than the latter. Whether the A. L. A. in spite of the small number of university and reference librarians should nevertheless feel that it might be advisable to devote a larger proportion of its efforts and time, than has recently been the practice, to questions likely to interest and benefit them particularly, is something which would probably not come within the scope of the present discussion.

J. C. M. HANSON.
University of Chicago.

The Lure of the Open

The Public library of Portland, Oregon gives the following in the May Bulletin of that library:

Burroughs, John. Leaf and tendril. 1908.

"The stories of the wary trout and the pastoral bee, the ways of sylvan folk, their quarrels and their love-making, are so many character-sketches, by an intimate of nature."

Muir, John. My first summer in the Sierra. 1911.

"There is nobody quite like John Muir, in the Sierras or out of them, and this book is one of his most delightful revelations."

Porter, G. S. The music of the wild, with reproductions of the performers; their instruments and festival halls. 1911.

Intense love of out-door beauty, though shown in rather hit-or-miss gossip of birds and trees and flowers.

Sharp, D. L. The face of the fields. 1911.

Intimate knowledge and sympathy, and an abundant humor.

Sharp, William. Where the forest murmurs; nature essays by Fiona McLeod. 1906.

Full of mystic, haunting charm and a passionate consciousness of all beauty.

Stevenson, R. L. Walking tours—Pan's pipes. (In his Virginibus puerisque. 1887).

"Give me the clear blue sky over my head, and the green turf beneath my feet, a winding road before me and a three hours' march to dinner."

Thoreau, H. D. Summer. 1884.

"Thoreau was almost as local as a wood-chuck. Concord contained all that was worth seeing, for, Nature repeats herself everywhere."

Torrey, Bradford. The clerk of the woods. 1903.

"A prose poet, who has the grace of walking and talking at the same time."

Van Dyke, Henry. Little rivers; essays in profitable idleness. 1903.

"Only a trout or two to dart
From foaming pools and try my art.
No more I'm wishing—old fashioned
fishing

And just a day on nature's heart."

White, S. E. The forest. 1903.

"An out-door book, written in a new way."

Library Exhibits

Bridgeport, Conn.

At the Bridgeport industrial exposition held at Bridgeport, Conn., the Public library made an exhibit of its material to meet the industrial and technical needs of the community. A model branch library was installed in a room 16 x 35 feet. Two long sections of low unit book stacks were placed so as to make two alcoves, in one of which was a children's table with children's reference books, and on the stacks were books on education. The other alcove was a larger reading table with atlas and daily papers, and quite a book collection.

On the opposite side of the room was a 15-foot unit wall stack with books on art, approximating 12,000 v. With few exceptions all these books have been published in the last five years, and an exceptionally pleasing circumstance was that not a book was lost in the exhibit.

Near the attendant's desk was a display case and a bulletin board of picture post cards of American scenery, a glass case of dolls in native costumes, and a case of more valuable articles. The floor was covered with green burlap, and the walls with unbleached cheesecloth, decorated by suitable pictures.

Besides several mimeographed lists, three booklets were printed and distributed, and lists of industrial and technical

books, lists of books on industrial education, and lists of books on American history.

Rochester, N. Y.

The Public library of Rochester, N.Y., occupied a conspicuous place in the Child welfare exhibit held in that city April 5-12.

The library display was in two divisions, one library charts, and the other a library reading room in action. In the exhibits were a series of contrasts labeled "Good and bad reading." On one hand were the covers of dime novels and penny dreadfuls, with photographs of the places where they were sold and read, while on the other hand were the covers of good books, with photographs of the children's room at the library, and the boys' reading club.

Two maps of the city showed number, location and character of the distributing centers of the library as they are and should be. A map of 12 cities comparable in size with Rochester, giving the number of library buildings and the amount expended for library maintenance was shown.

Under the motto, "The public library as an integral part of public education," the relation between the library and the public school was shown. The Board of education supplies the textbooks, supplementary books, reference books, and grade library books in 404 grade libraries.

The children's room of the exhibit, fully equipped with fittings and furniture and decorated with flowers and ferns, formed a picture among the most telling in the whole exhibit. Souvenirs were distributed, consisting of a list of "Books for a child's library," and a picture of the children's room on the back of which was printed a list of the needs of the Rochester library.

Nearly 2,000 people visited the library department each day. Since the exposition closed, a large number of people have come to the library bringing with them the books distributed there, using them as catalogs from which to select books.

N. E. A. exhibit.

At the meeting of the Library department of the N. E. A. at Salt Lake City, Utah, June 7-11, 1913, quite a good deal of attention will be paid to the exhibits which have been collected and prepared with the greatest care.

The following is an outline of the exhibit:

- Library aids for teachers in elementary and normal schools.
- Some good editions of children's books.
- Some of the best printed lists of books for children. Graded lists. Books for children to own, etc.
- Aids in story telling.
- Reference material obtainable at slight cost.
- Aids in the organization and care of school libraries.
- High school exhibit: Library aids for teachers and librarians.
- Aids in book selection for high school libraries.
- Reading lists for high school pupils.
- Helps in debate work.
- Helps in vocational guidance.
- Use and care of clippings, mounted pictures, etc.
- Aids in training students in the use of books.
- Public library work for public schools.
- Library work for rural communities: Exhibit loaned by the League of library commissions.

Publisher's Note

If those having edition 7 of the Decimal Classification, which they will sell at half price or exchange for edition 8, publish June 1, will notify Forest Press, Lake Placid Club, N. Y., of the number of copies and binding, the Press will try to find buyers to whom they may be mailed direct. Some who can hardly afford the \$6 latest edition would be glad to pay \$3 for the other. Others who realize the great saving by having all new tables and index entries in regular place would gladly pay half price to secure the new edition. So far as such applications are received Forest Press will try to bring about this exchange without the cost of double mailing or express by having the old edition mailed direct from the present owner to the buyer.

Steingrimur Stefánsson

On Sunday, May 4, there died in Washington, D. C., a man little known in library circles, but who nevertheless has been a most important cog in the coöperative work which during the last 10 or 15 years has grown up around the Library of Congress, a man who directly and indirectly has exercised an influence on cataloging, reference work, and the building up of bibliographical and reference collections of which only his most intimate associates have any idea.

This man was Steingrimur Stefánsson, born in Iceland about 51 years ago of a family prominent in the political and ecclesiastical affairs of the island, a family said to trace its descent back to Egil Skallagrimsson, a warrior and poet of the ninth century and one of the best known characters in the Icelandic sagas. There was much in the man to lend color to this claim of descent. Intellectually and physically a giant, he possessed a memory the equal of which is rarely met with. Coupled with an intense love of reading came rare opportunities, first in the family library, later in the Latin school at Reykjavik, where he received his A. B., then during five years of graduate study at the University of Copenhagen, at the Newberry library from 1892 to 1899, and since that at the Library of Congress. Amid these environments he had succeeded in accumulating a fund of knowledge such as few men have been privileged to claim. To his knowledge he added an unerring bibliographical instinct. He seemed to know by intuition where to turn for the best information on any subject. No movement or character in history, no current or personality in the world's literature, no phase of social or religious progress, was unknown to him. He considered it a duty to keep in touch with everything of any importance going on in the world, and his remarkable memory with a great skill which he had developed in grasping the essentials of any communication, article, or book, enabled him to cover an amount of ground truly extraordinary.

Whether due to a certain heritage from his Viking ancestors or merely to per-

sonal obstinacy, not an uncommon characteristic of the Norse, he could never be prevailed upon to contribute from his immense fund of knowledge to library, bibliographical, or other journals, to take part in library meetings or public activities. He must live his life as he saw it, and like Peer Gynt, be always himself. This seemed essential to his happiness.

Never happier than when assisting others in unravelling some knotty bibliographic problem, he proved himself invaluable, not only in reference, but more particularly perhaps in the work which he performed as head reviser of the catalog division at the Library of Congress. If librarians have found the subject headings suggested on the cards printed by the Library of Congress since 1899 of assistance, it should be known that the main credit is due to Mr Stefánsson. His advice in regard to books covering the humanities, and also the history of the sciences, was invaluable.

That a man of his type should prove a veritable gold mine for that species of parasite who manage to exist in and about certain libraries and whose chief stock in trade is the shrewdness and persistency with which they manage to "suck the brains of others," goes without saying. Fortunately he had a sunny disposition and an unfailing sense of humor, and little incidents which to others would have been annoying, never seemed to worry him in the least.

It seems sad to think that a career promising so large a service for many years to come should so suddenly have been cut off. It is especially sad when we recognize that the type of librarian which Mr Stefánsson represented seems to be disappearing from among us. During the thirteen and one-half years which the undersigned spent in the Library of Congress he never failed to sound the young men who would from time to time visit Washington from the library schools, in order to learn how far they might have the proper qualifications for, or a desire to enter upon work similar to that performed by Mr Stefánsson. The invariable experience seemed to be that either the educational equipment was lacking,

or—and the latter was most frequently the case—they looked to administrative positions and, as one frankly expressed himself, would consider even a few years in a subordinate position in the Library of Congress as practically so much time wasted. In one sense he may have been right. The history of library school graduates will no doubt show that those who have gone into administrative work have as a rule done better financially, and occupy positions of greater trust and responsibility than those who have selected a more purely bibliographic career. Here in America, at least, this seems to be the case, and had it not been for the many women in the profession, who, either from lack of ambition or from predilection, have taken to cataloging or similar bibliographic drudgery, and a number of men educated abroad, who because of foreign accent or for other reasons, have been obliged to enter subordinate positions, the high grade of cataloging and classification accomplished in some of the large reference and university libraries would have been an impossibility. The fact that we cannot all be commanders in chief does not seem to have been fully realized. Subordinate officers and privates—the men behind the guns—are also needed.

The death of Mr Stefánsson, therefore, should make us ponder. The need of men of his type is today as great as ever; greater, in fact. Whatever certain well-meaning individuals may have to say in papers and addresses before library conferences, our technical problems have not been solved. We have barely succeeded in scratching the outside of some of them. Personally, I have little hesitation in expressing the opinion that at any rate in our large reference and university libraries, the chief criterions by which we must continue to be judged are these: 1) Have you the books? 2) Are they available? Unless these questions are to be answered as a recent French writer* evidently would have us answer them—by means of a

*H. Lemaitre, in Association des Bibliothécaires français. Bibliothèques, livres et librairies. Paris, 1913.

classification according to accession numbers and an alphabetical subject catalog consisting of catch words—the man who knows, the man of unerring bibliographic instinct and of sound training will have to be provided for our large libraries. There is work in these institutions which increases in difficulty with the growth of the collections, and unless the right kind of men can be induced to take up the work the result must be a lowering of standards in the direction indicated by the French writer referred to.

Although Mr Stefánsson showed a certain ruthlessness in dealing with associates ignorant of leading movements, characters, or events in history and literature, knowledge of which he considered a necessary complement to the intellectual equipment of every educated person, and though some of them may therefore be disposed to regard his memory with mixed feelings, there is not one among them who will not concede that he never criticised without good reason, and, moreover, that he was as a rule the gainer by the criticism. To the great majority of his associates both here in Chicago and in Washington, and likewise his many friends outside of the profession, the news of his death must be a severe blow. By them he will always be remembered as the jovial, cheerful companion, never happier than when he could help. Full of quaint sayings and humorous allusions, he frequently made work which otherwise would have been drudgery, seem pleasant and easy.

As one who during thirteen and a half years of close association had special opportunities for estimating the value of the services rendered by Mr Stefánsson, these few lines are submitted as a slight token of appreciation and gratitude.

J. C. M. HANSON.

The cruellest lies are often told in silence. A man may have sat in a room for hours and not opened his teeth, and yet come out of that room a disloyal friend or a vile calumniator.—*Robert Louis Stevenson.*

State History Illustrated
Story-hour of the Greensboro (N. C.) public library

Bettie D. Caldwell, librarian

The measure of success which has attended our story hour in the past year, leads me to write this description of our plan, with the hope of serving some other worker in a like field of labor, as former plans set forth in these columns have often served the library of Greensboro.

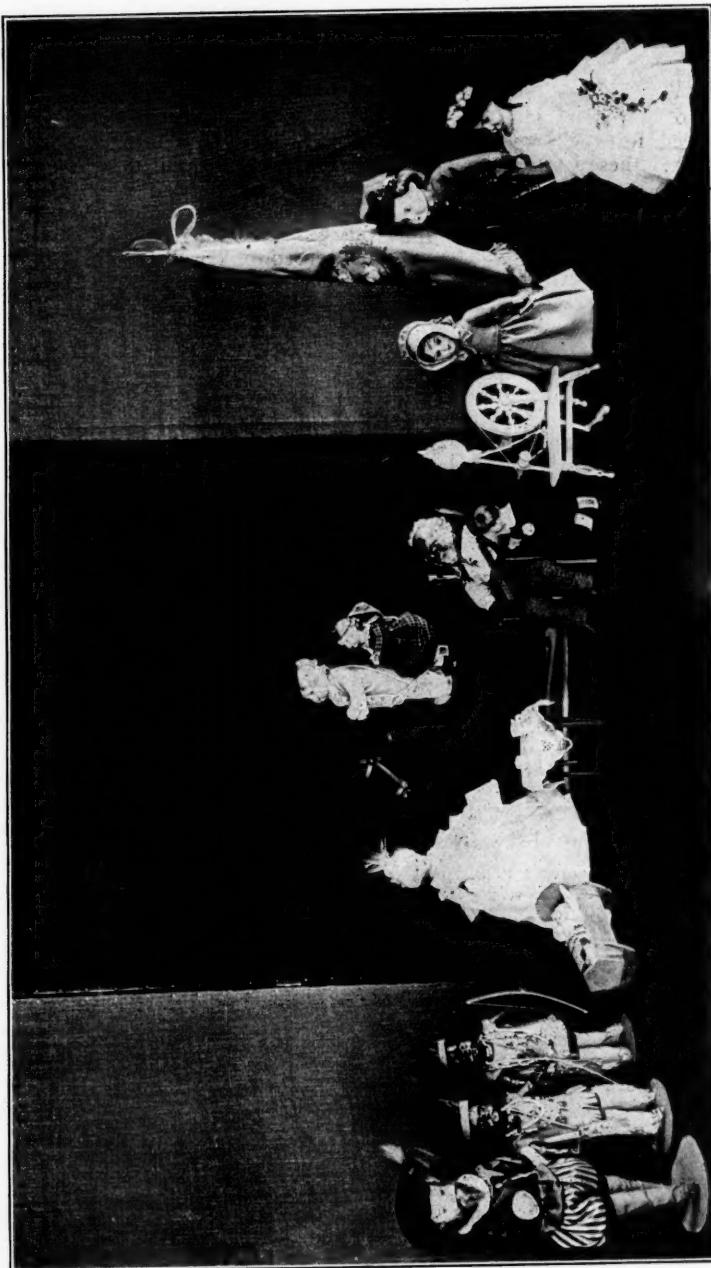
Generous primary teachers had donated their time to various successful story hours in the past two years, but last winter, being anxious to emphasize local history, a review was implied, and it became necessary to ask one of these good friends to carry the burden alone. This need was explained to Miss Florence Pannill, who responded to our petition by promising the gift of her services for the seven monthly meetings, two numbers from each program to be selected from her own repertoire, and the third a history story of the Old North State.

Miss Pannill's name is one to "conjure by" among the small people of the school room world. Her audience in the library has been limited to children under 12 years of age and has averaged an attendance of 200, being the only gathering which taxes the seating capacity of our hall.

To illustrate these history stories, dolls were dressed to represent the principal characters of the day. Costumes and stage properties were furnished by interested friends, and the whole now forms a permanent exhibit in the children's room.

The accompanying illustration shows two Indian boys as the heroes of the first story. They are Manteo and Manchese, lads who figured for a time in the stormy fortunes of Sir Walter Raleigh, being sent over to him in England from his colony on Roanoke Island in 1584, and by him presented at the court of his capricious sovereign, Queen Elizabeth. As the capital of North Carolina was named for Raleigh, we always bring him into a story when we can.

Virginia Dare, second number on our



program, was the grandchild of Governor John White, born August 18, 1587, the first English baby on American soil. Her tiny cradle held the idol of the whole colony in that distant day; but alas! the relief ships returning from their home land with supplies in August, 1591, found the once busy settlement deserted, and naught to guide a fruitless search for the lost colonists save the one word "Croatan," which was cut in the bark of a forest tree beside their silent cabins. The Croatans were known as a friendly tribe, and a wide spread legend of "The white doe" is believed to mean that baby Virginia had welcome share in such shelter and protection as the red man and his native forest could supply.

The stately colonial dame of the third story is Mistress Penelope Barker, chairman of the Edenton tea party of October 25, 1774, when 51 ladies of this small village united in making indignant written protest against the oppressive tax upon their accustomed beverage, bravely declaring that raspberry leaves and not tea, should be their portion until the tax should be repealed.

"Uncle Jack of Bruce's Cross Roads" was the hero of a story which took the children's hearts by storm. This faithful slave in the family of Charles Bruce of Guilford County, was both caretaker and protector for mistress and children all through the Revolutionary war. On February 12, 1781, a month before the battle of Guilford Court House, when the British soldiers were nearing their plantation home, Uncle Jack, not only took his charges seven miles north across the county line to safety, but against their affectionate protest came back that night, at the risk of his life, that he might carry tidings to his mistress of the havoc wrought by the enemy. The little fellow at his side, so evidently enjoying the story hour of that day, is Charles Bruce, Jr., eldest son of Uncle Jack's master.

Our most dramatic story was that of "Maggie McBride." Three hundred children were present to hear the deeds of this little fourteen-year-old girl, who so bravely guided a troop of American

soldiers two miles from her country home to a tory camp in the early autumn of 1781, running back all alone through the dark pine woods when the muskets began firing on the enemy. This tory camp was shown to be within the present site of Greensboro, and the great-great granddaughter of little Maggie was presented to the children in one of their comrades, a climax evidently pleasing to these small pilgrims in the pleasant path of history.

Of the two remaining stories, one was the life work of Alethea Coffin, a brave young widow of the Guilford Quaker colony, who, left to her own resources in 1826, won success for her household after a long and arduous struggle with poverty and many hardships. The favorite spinning wheel at her side be-speaks her life-long industry, and the Bible in her hand tells of her daily dependence upon the word of God.

Last of all came a May day story of Greensboro 53 years ago, when girl students gathered in the grove of Edgeworth seminary to crown their May Queen, and bid her present a beautiful banner bearing the seal of state to the Guilford Grays, the military company of the village.

This was the fifth of May, 1860, and older people know that in the dark days which followed, stately seminary and churches too, were turned into hospitals, the gay boy company into real soldiers, tested upon a score of battlefields, and the young lieutenant, falling in front of a gallant and desperate charge, won generous plaudits of his courage from both friend and foe. But shadows like these are all too heavy for the path of such little pilgrims; for them their friend, the story teller, paints instead the sunshine of that long ago morning, the spirited march under arching elms of the long village street, the negro fife and drum corps dispensing the military music of the day, and the beauty of the rose crowned Queen, as she voices her hope that the gift of her maidens may be always a banner of peace.

A lesson of high courage for our own day is found in her closing words of

woman's faith: "Guilford's sons are taught to know but one fear—the fear of doing wrong."

Little children, as we all know, respond eagerly to physical and to moral courage. It has been our privilege in Greensboro this year to witness this response to courage and adventure drawn from actual history; and the story teller's heart was glad on the day of Maggie McBride's when a childish voice from her audience was heard in the plea, "Give us the real stories please—I like the real stories best."

Interesting Things in Print

The June number of *The International Studio* is worth all that it costs (50 cents), and more for the discussion of contemporary art alone. But interesting material relating to Dutch art, Japanese color prints, wood engraving, not to mention the art discussion in "Studio talk," and "In the galleries," make it a most desirable number for the reading tables of the small library away from art centers.

A selected bibliography of physical training and hygiene 1912, prepared by Geo. B. Affleck, professor of hygiene, Springfield, Mass., appeared in several numbers of the *American Physical Education Review* and has now been compiled in a pamphlet of 38 pages.

The Brooklyn public library has issued a revised edition of its Rules for the guidance of the library staff.

Bindery Talk, published in Los Angeles, is well worth the subscription price of 50 cents a year, which is charged for the many suggestions it offers on the binding that every library must do.

The Carnegie library of Pittsburgh has issued in separate form the reading list on "Vocational guidance" which appeared in the May, 1913, *Bulletin* of that library. It is a selected list including only the most useful and readable books and omitting all references to magazine articles. The list is in two parts, one for grown ups and one for children. The list may be had from the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, postpaid five cents.

Library Meetings

Colorado.—The meeting of the Colorado library association was held this spring at the University of Colorado, at Boulder. Forty librarians were present, representing libraries on the eastern slope, as the distance from the western slope was too great for an attendance from that section of the state.

The opening session of the association was held in conjunction with the Scientific society of the University of Colorado. There was a large attendance and the address of welcome was given by Dean F. B. R. Hellens. The response was made in a happy manner by Mr Ormes, librarian of the Coburn library, Colorado college, president of the association.

The address of the evening was a literary one, given by Dr Samuel A. Lough of the University of Denver, who spoke on "A modern message from an old drama," the address being a consideration of the book of Job.

Following the evening's program, a reception was held for the visitors in the Hale building by the members of the library staff of the University library.

After a short business session Tuesday morning, the association heard an interesting and valuable talk by C. Henry Smith, librarian of the University of Colorado, on "Extensive and intensive work." The speaker laid special stress on the extravagance in the duplication of library activities in Colorado and suggested that librarians acquaint themselves more fully with the special activities of Colorado libraries so that such duplications could be avoided in the purchase of expensive books, the compilation of special reading lists, bulletins, etc. Mr Smith urged the development of inter-library loans in Colorado as the means of supplying books which were needed especially for scholarly work, and suggested the advisability of a central clearing house for periodicals. This would provide a means by which libraries could dispose of what to them would be useless periodicals and to other libraries would be invaluable printed material.

The speaker urged all librarians to become thoroughly acquainted with the special collections in Colorado libraries. These include a genealogical collection in the State library, the fine arts and Colorado collection in the Denver public library, the collection of technical books and magazines in the University library, pedagogical collection in the Teachers' college, etc.

Miss Reese of the Denver public library urged that all libraries asking for inter-library loans prepay expressage on all books and thereby reduce the cost of inter-library loans fifty per cent.

Considerable interest has been aroused among Colorado librarians by the reorganization of the Colorado state library commission and the scope and value of commission work was discussed by Chalmers Hadley, librarian of the Denver public library.

A delightful address on "Modern drama" was given by Prof J. Raymond Brackett of the University of Colorado, which was followed by an interesting informal discussion by those present on the principles of book selection in purchasing the drama.

The last hour of the morning session was devoted to a general discussion of library odds and ends, methods of work, labor-saving devices, the admission of Sunday newspaper supplements to reading rooms, etc.

The librarians were the guests at noon of Mr and Mrs C. Henry Smith at a charming luncheon given at the Smith residence.

The general topic of the "Library and the public school" had been suggested by the program committee as one which would be particularly valuable from the fact that there were 150 prospective graduates from the pedagogical school at the university. The program was arranged with the expectation that these teachers would attend the session and participate in the discussion of the papers presented. While there were a few teachers present, the discussion resulted, as too frequently happens when library and school coöper-

ation is considered, in the librarians reading their papers principally to members of their own calling.

The first paper was by Charlotte A. Baker, librarian of the Colorado Agricultural college, who spoke in a most interesting way of public documents for high school students. Miss Baker had on exhibition a small collection of public documents invaluable to high school pupils. This included government publications on agronomy, home economics, ornithology, hygiene, etc., and she demonstrated the value of many public documents in high school debate work. She distributed printed lists showing the pamphlets which the State Agricultural college has for distribution in Colorado rural schools.

James H. Baker, president of the University appeared at the afternoon session and was warmly greeted by the librarians. He was called upon to make some remarks which he did in a felicitous way and emphasized the value of the contribution to the public welfare which libraries and librarians are making.

Story-telling

Some basic principles of story-telling were given by Anna Hillkowitz, children's librarian at the Denver public library. Among the general rules for successful story telling which Miss Hillkowitz emphasized, were the following: Stories should be told, not read. Stories should be thoroughly grasped and assimilated before they are told. Do not memorize a story except those passages which are so identified with the beauty of the story that their elimination would be unfortunate. Stories should be told simply, directly and dramatically. There should not be the slightest affectation or posing on the part of the story teller and she should not talk down to the children. The story teller should be natural, with no self-consciousness. She should not moralize, nor should she attempt elocutionary methods in her delivery. The stories should be made informal, but should be carefully planned, and they will be repaid by an increased interest in the reading of books. Miss Hillkowitz illustrated her points in a delightful way

by telling the story of "Caliph's storks" from Hauff's fairy tales.

Reference work

"Reference work with schools" was the topic of an interesting paper by Mary Watkins, reference librarian of the Denver public library. She emphasized many valuable points in successful reference work with schools, among them being that in this work, the librarian must work largely through the teacher who must be willing at times to sacrifice the grade showing of her pupils for their greater good in the future. Miss Watkins emphasized the importance of teachers notifying librarians in advance of what they need, so that the proper preparation could be made in the library. In history and other subjects which in high schools require much outside work, Miss Watkins advocated the placing on the reserve shelves of books most useful for this work and suggested that they remain here for an entire quarter with a list of references posted near by. She said "It will pay the reference librarian to work with the teacher in preparing the reference lists to suitable material in the library, but let it be *with* and not *for* her." The speaker mentioned the difficulties librarians have in keeping in close touch with teachers and said "It is a rather common experience of public libraries to appreciate that Mahomet has to go to the mountain with the library in the role of the prophet." "Other things being equal," she said, "the effectiveness of reference work with schools is inversely as the square of the distance of the library from the school." The speaker advocated the practice found in an increasing number of libraries, of employing a library assistant who has charge of all the library work with schools and who can devote her entire time to this work. Miss Watkins advocated also the presentation of the library's resources to the schools at the first teachers' meeting of the school year and called attention to the particular value of presenting the library to school children in the eighth year. "Such a presentation at this time," she said, "will impress the

students who are planning to enter high school and those who are leaving school for good."

Libraries and schools

In a paper on "The relations of libraries to schools," given by Rena Reese, assistant librarian at the Denver public library, she said, "The fact that this subject maintains its Banquo-like insistence in re-appearing on library programs, causes us to feel there must still be some weak point in the relations between libraries and schools. Too often," she said, "when co-operation is suggested, the school politely replies, 'Yes, let us co-operate' and then sits back and waits helplessly for the library to do the co-operating. One of the chief difficulties is that too many teachers fail to know the resources and general uses of a library and therefore have no adequate idea as to the aims of library work and what the library can do for the school." Miss Reese stated that too many teachers are not thoroughly informed in the field of books and frequently the work of the library is undone in that teachers recommend for children's reading books which will not be found on the shelves of any well conducted children's room. "In order that the teacher can co-operate more successfully with the library, it would seem wise," Miss Reese said, "that the teacher equip herself with a working knowledge of the following: The use of the card catalog, the use of periodical indexes, the use of dictionaries, encyclopedias, year books, gazeteers, bibliographical indexes to poetry and to the best fiction, and an intelligent use of the title page of a book, table of contents, preface and index, and to know the difference between the functions of a card catalog and an index. A few definite things that teachers must do in order to receive benefit from the library are the following," the speaker stated. "First, teachers must come to the library. Second, when they come, they must make themselves known. Third, they must make use of the library's special aids, such as special collections on education, child study, etc. Fourth, if planning a

reading course, send the proper titles of the books which the teacher proposes to have listed."

The same topic was discussed from the school view point by Victoria Hazlitt, instructor in education at the University of Colorado. She urged that school boards assist the public library financially in helping to purchase extra books needed in the work with schools. Also that the reading courses in schools be arranged as much as possible along informal lines with provisions for at least two hours a week in the school schedule when all children could spend this time in the library reading rooms.

At this meeting of the Colorado library association, the executive board decided to print quarterly a little bulletin as a means of communication between the various library workers of the state. This will be devoted to the announcement of library meetings, programs, and personal news regarding librarians.

The association instructed its legislative committee, consisting of Albert F. Carter, of the State Teachers' college library, Charlotte A. Baker, of the State Agricultural College, and Chalmers Hadley, of the Denver public library, to investigate the existing library law of the state as applying to public libraries, and to report at the November meeting in Denver as to whether this law, which provides for self-perpetuating library boards, is satisfactory or should be amended.

The association urged the new State board of library commissioners to take steps which it is hoped will result in a closer coöperation of the library's activities of the state. Four of the five members of this new commission have been appointed by Governor Ammons, as follows: Chalmers Hadley, of the Denver public library, C. Henry Smith, librarian at the University of Colorado, Albert F. Carter, librarian at the State Teachers' college, and Charlotte A. Baker, librarian Agricultural college, and Chalmers Had-

Connecticut.—The Spring meeting of the Connecticut library association was held at the Raymond library on Friday, June 6, 1913.

Albert Morgan, of the Hartford bird-Dwight L. Burnham, there was a brief business session. The only important matter acted upon was the question of an appropriation to carry on the library institute which has formerly been held in connection with the Normal school at Danbury. An appropriation of \$30 was made from the treasury for this purpose.

Perry S. Bryant next outlined the history of library development in East Hartford, and John H. Sage followed with a descriptive list of recent literature upon birds. Mr. Sage's firsthand knowledge of his subject and personal acquaintance with the authors gave unusual zest to his address.

Albert Morgan, of the Hartford Bird-study club, entertained the meeting with an illustrated lecture upon the birds of this locality.

The afternoon was devoted to the study of "Our Slavic fellow citizens," Raymond G. Gettell of Trinity college and Prof. Emily Greene Balch of Wellesley presenting scholarly and extremely enlightening addresses on the history and present condition of these peoples both in Europe and in this country. The subject was continued in an interesting discussion by Miss Brown of New Britain and Miss Deshon of the Meriden library.

The association was hospitably entertained at luncheon by "the trustees and friends of the Raymond library," in the parish house of St. John's Episcopal church.

EDITH MC H. STEELE,
Secretary.

New York.—The Rochester district library club held a most interesting meeting on May 29 aboard the steamship "Ontario," sailing from Rochester to Coburg and return.

The morning session was devoted to a discussion of the topic of "Judging and choosing books." Five-minute reviews of recent books were given by Miss Reed, Professor Moehlman, Miss Weaver, Miss Love, Miss Gleason, Miss Achilles, Mrs. Foster and Miss Flynn.

At the afternoon session, the topic "Advertising the library" was introduced

by Mr Yust and Miss Zachert. Five-minute reports were heard from librarians on "How we make our library known," covering the Reynolds library, the Freeport library, the Theological seminary, Rochester high school, Rochester municipal library, and others.

Long Island, N. Y.—The annual meeting of the Library club was held on May 15 at Forest Hills Inn, Forest Hills, L. I., at 2:30 p. m. This locality has been recently laid out as a garden city under the auspices of the Russell Sage Foundation. About 200 were in attendance. The following officers for the coming year were unanimously elected:

President, Harriot Hassler, Queens Borough public library; vice-president, Julia Hopkins, Pratt Institute free library; secretary, Eleanor Roper, Queens Borough public library; treasurer, Gwen-dolen Brown, Brooklyn public library.

The first speaker of the afternoon was John M. Glenn, director of the Russell Sage Foundation. Mr Glenn's preliminary remarks were devoted to a description of the locality at Forest Hills and he explained the purpose of the Sage Foundation Homes association in establishing this garden city. Then followed a description of the activities of the Foundation and its publications. It was interesting to learn of the many departments into which the work is divided, such as the Charity organization, the Recreation, the Publicity work, etc. The aim of the Foundation is not so much to help individuals as to get the needs of a community before the public, and to suggest how the social and industrial betterment of this community may be brought about. It aims also to standardize social work and the education of social workers.

Franklin K. Mathiews, Chief Scout librarian of the Boy Scouts, was the next speaker. The importance of a boy's reading when about 12 years of age was emphasized. He is sure to be interested in books of adventure, war, heroes, and sport and Mr Mathiews placed stories of adventure first because they develop his imagination and self-reliance. Very important also are books of sport and school

life because they develop his sense of honor and honesty. Mr Mathiews exhibited a questionnaire which he had prepared for the use of a boy's parents. From a study of the answers to these questions, he is enabled to recommend certain books best adapted to the boy's reading. He told also of a plan which has been started to publish for a small sum a number of the best books for boys. Only the most representative and best books will be chosen and thus the problem of "not what a boy *ought* to read but what he *does* and *will* read" will be partially solved.

After these addresses, a vote of thanks presented by Dr Hill, was unanimously extended to the speakers of the afternoon and "to the Sage Foundation Homes association for the privilege of enjoying their hospitality in this newest garden spot of Long Island."

ROBERT L. SMITH,
Secretary.

Oklahoma.—The sixth annual convention of the State library association was held at Muskogee, May 14 and 15. An address of welcome was made by Carroll S. Bucher, president of the Muskogee library board, responded to by Mrs Cora Case Porter, acting president. The sessions were full of helpful discussion along technical lines.

The principal speaker was George B. Utley, secretary of the American library association, who gave two addresses, "The library as a business asset," and "How to interest the business man in the library." He made a strong point of the librarian's duty to do field work, urging the librarian to go out among the people, learning their needs, and making them acquainted with the resources of the library. He urged Oklahoma to hold district library institutes which would offer the advantage of a week's course of technical training. These can be conducted in different parts of the state for the benefit of inexperienced librarians.

The work with children was treated from different viewpoints by E. S. Monroe, superintendent of the city schools, and Mrs Bertha McBride, of Guthrie.

The association received with regret the resignation of Miss Abbott, president of the association.

The committee on affiliation with the A. L. A. recommended approval of any regulations adopted by the A. L. A.

Alma R. McGlenn, of Tulsa, gave an interesting paper on "The small library as a social center."

The association endorsed the work of Miss Phelps in conducting a summer training class for librarians. It was voted enthusiastically to invite the A. L. A. to hold its 1914 session in Oklahoma City. Mrs J. A. Thompson, of Chickasha, and Miss Phelps were elected delegates to carry the invitation to the national conference in June.

The committee on resolutions prepared a cordial vote of thanks to the A. L. A. for timely help, mentioning particularly the assistance of Mr Kerr and the inspirational presence of Mr Utley.

Mrs DeRoos Bailey, chairman of the library committee of the Federation of women's clubs, reported on the needs for the traveling libraries work. The invitation of the State federation of women's clubs for the association to become a member of the federation upon the same basis as other clubs was accepted. Mary R. Radford, of the Muskogee public library, was elected association representative.

A resolution asking for a place on the program of the State teachers' association was also passed.

A luncheon as guests of the Chamber of Commerce, a reception, and an auto ride over the city, were features of Muskogee hospitality. Miss Alice Robinson entertained the association at "Sawokla," her picturesque country home.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs Cora Case Porter, Oklahoma City; first vice-president, Mary R. Radford, Muskogee; second vice-president, Alma McGlenn, Tulsa; treasurer, Cora Miltimore, Stillwater; secretary, Mrs J. A. Thompson, Chickasha.

Pennsylvania.—The last meeting of the Pennsylvania library club for the season

1912-1913 was held on Monday evening, May 12, 1913. The meeting was unusual, on account of its being held in two separate buildings. The first half hour was spent in old Christ church, known to every student of history of Revolutionary times. Dr Washburn, the rector of Christ church, addressed the meeting in the church, and said, "While to me Revolutionary associations with the church are very precious and very significant, the church was here long before there was a revolution." The royal coat-of-arms, Queen Anne's communion service, and much of the original altar furniture are still in the church. The meeting then adjourned to the Neighborhood House across the street, where the regular annual business meeting was held. The following officers were elected for the year 1913-1914:

President, Dr Cyrus Adler, Dropsie college, Philadelphia; first vice-president, Thomas L. Montgomery, State librarian; second vice-president, Corinne Bacon, librarian and director, Drexel Institute library school; treasurer, Bertha S. Wetzell; secretary, Jean E. Graffen.

Dr Robinson, as chairman of the nominating committee, stated that the committee had asked him "to make a nomination to a new office of honor, and to nominate a person for that office who deserves all the honor that we can give him. He is one to whom this club owes more than most of us know. He was among the first founders, having been president of the club twice, and is always willing to spend and be spent in the interest of the club. He has been ready to serve the club in any way for more than 20 years, and I have the pleasure and honor to nominate for honorary president of this club, John Thomson, librarian of the Free library of Philadelphia." After a most enthusiastic rising vote of thanks Mr Thomson responded and accepted the office in his usual gracious manner.

Dr Washburn again had the floor, and gave a most interesting and instructive talk on the library connected with Christ church. "The parish library is supposed

to have been started in the reign of William and Mary, and contains gifts from Queen Anne, an interesting collection of books from Ludovic Christian Spongwell in 1728." The library contains over 300 volumes, and while there have been some few mutilations and thefts, it is still an interesting collection of books; and Dr Washburn hopes that it will not be very long before the library is better known to librarians as well as to all others interested in libraries.

A very hearty vote of thanks was extended to Dr Washburn for giving such an interesting evening.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN, Secretary.

Wisconsin.—The Milwaukee library club held its annual meeting for the election of officers on the evening of May 27, in St. James guild-hall. The business meeting was preceded by a very enjoyable luncheon tendered the members of the club by the retiring president, Mr C. E. McLenegan. The following officers were elected for the year 1913-14:

President, Leo Tiefenthaler; vice-president, Mary E. Dousman; secretary-treasurer, Josephine Kulzick; members of the executive board, Delia Ovitz, Alice Radcliffe.

The animated discussion on the question of the club's activities for next year, which followed the election, indicated an interest in the association which promises well for the success of the new administration. LILLIAN M. CARTER, Secretary.

Library Schools Drexel Institute

The lectures since the last report have been as follows:

Arthur L. Bailey, Wilmington Institute free library, Library binding.

Sarah B. Askew, New Jersey public library commission, What makes library work a success.

Julia A. Hopkins, Pratt Institute library school, The study of a community.

Mrs Edna Lyman Scott (Kroeger alumnae lecturer), Story interests of the child; Preparation of the story; Principles of book selection for children.

May C. Nerney (formerly head of Order section, New York state library), Book-buying (2 lectures).

The class visited in May the bindery of Gilbert D. Emerson, the fine building of the Curtis Publishing Company, the libraries of Princeton and Bryn Mawr universities, the Public library of Trenton, N. J., and the library of the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia.

May 5-8 were spent in visiting the libraries of Baltimore and Washington. Classes did not begin again until May 12, in order that students who were not familiar with Washington might have a chance to see something more of the city than its libraries. An afternoon reception was held for the class at the home of Miss Rebecca Warner.

Commencement week began with President MacAlister's reception, Tuesday evening, June 3.

Class Day exercises were held by all departments of the Institute in common at Runnymede, the old Drexel estate, Wednesday afternoon, June 4.

Twelve students passed their final examinations creditably and received certificates at the Commencement exercises held Thursday morning, June 5, in the auditorium. This is the last class to receive certificates signed by President James MacAlister, who planned Drexel institute, has been its only president, and has just resigned his position on account of ill health.

Cameron, Jean, Spearfish, S. D.
Carruthers, Helen Anne, Carlisle, Pa.
Coplin, Martha Lee, Philadelphia, Pa.
Jones, Mary Helen, Haddonfield, N. J.
Kessler, Elizabeth Lois, Philadelphia, Pa.
McCrumb, Blanche Prichard, Lexington,
Va.

Muirhead, Minnie Scott, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Rice, Beth Clark, Buffalo, N. Y.
Rockwell, Helen E., Towanda, Pa.
Test, Marjorie, Merchantville, N. J.
Trimble, Katherine M., Camden, N. J.
Warner, Rebecca Parker, Washington,
D. C.

Miss Carruthers has accepted a position as assistant in the new public library of Harrisburg, Pa., of which Miss Alice R. Eaton, Drexel '08, has been appointed librarian.

Miss Kessler has been appointed librarian of the Edgewater (N. J.), public library.

Miss McCrum and Miss Rice have accepted positions in the Lawrenceville branch and the Wylie Ave. branch of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Miss Rockwell will spend the summer in cataloging the library of the Ogontz (Pa.) school.

Miss Trimble returns to work in the Drexel institute library as assistant in charge of the loan desk.

Miss Warner returns to the Public library of Washington, D. C., where she worked for two years before entering the school.

Mabel W. Brown, instructor in the Drexel institute library school, sailed on June 12 from Quebec for a three months' tour in Europe.

University of Illinois

Two lectures were given by Mary E. Hazeltine, Preceptor of the Wisconsin library school, who spoke April 29, on the Work of the Wisconsin free library commission, and Books. It was Miss Hazeltine's first visit to the University of Illinois. It is needless to say that Miss Hazeltine charmed all her listeners by her original views and the convincing sincerity with which she uttered them.

The last lecture for the academic year was given by Mr W. H. Brett, dean of the Western Reserve library school, and librarian of the Cleveland public library. Mr Brett was able to stay for but one lecture and gave the school an uplifting talk on "The larger purpose of a library."

Since the last report the Library club has had two very successful and interesting meetings, the first in the early part of May being in the nature of an informal meeting held at the Alpha Delta Phi house, with Miss Pletcher of the senior class as hostess. During the evening the club had the pleasure of listening to a most interesting address on Japan and things Japanese, given by Dr E. B. Greene, head of the History department, who has recently returned from a lengthy visit to Japan. Dr Greene was

followed by Edna Lyman Scott, who told as only Mrs Scott can tell, a group of Japanese stories. The last meeting of the Library club for the year took the form of a picnic, held on the banks of the Vermillion River, about 15 miles from the university. The club went in a special car and had a most delightful afternoon and evening. Officers of the club for the ensuing year are Louise Fenimore Schwartz, president, and Sabra E. Stevens, secretary-treasurer.

On June 11, the University of Illinois conferred the degree of Bachelor of Library Science on the following members of the senior class:

Flora Margaret Case, A. B., University of Illinois, 1912.

Elizabeth Henrietta Cass, A. B., University of Illinois, 1912.

Edith Harley Ford, Ph. B., University of Chicago, 1910.

Laura Mary Hubbard, A. B., Western college for women, 1896.

Martha Winifred Knapp, A. B., Ohio Wesleyan university, 1899.

Opha Belle Pletcher, A. B., University of Illinois, 1913.

Nellie Mabel Robertson, A. B., Moore's Hill college, 1900.

Mary Torrance, A. B., Hanover college, 1900.

Another member of the senior class, Marguerite Mitchell, completed creditably all of the work covered by the two years of the School curriculum, but did not receive the degree of B. L. S. because of offering insufficient entrance requirements. Miss Mitchell has been enrolled for the past two years as a special student, not a candidate for a degree.

Alumni notes

Flora M. Case, B. L. S., '13, has been appointed to a temporary position to catalog the collection on landscape gardening and horticulture, in the College of agriculture at the University of Illinois.

Edith H. Ford, B. L. S., '13, will act as reviser during the summer session in library science, given by the University of Illinois.

Mary Hubbard, B. L. S., '13, is working temporarily in the University of Illinois catalog department. At the completion of this work, Miss Hubbard will

have charge of the courses in library economy given by the La Crosse (Wisconsin) normal school for six weeks during the summer session. Upon completion of that work, on September first, Miss Hubbard has been appointed to a position in the University of Washington library, teaching the courses given in cataloging and classification by the University of Washington, and devoting some hours each day to the reference department.

Myrtle Renz, B. L. S., '12, will take charge during the summer of the library of the Eastern Illinois normal school at Charleston, Ill.

Anna May Price, B. L. S., '00, will be in charge of the courses in library economy, given at the University of Utah during the summer. Miss Price will be assisted by Emma Felsenthal, B. L. S., 1912, who has been relieved from work at the University of Illinois library in order to do this teaching.

Ethel Bond, B. L. S., '08, will have charge of the summer courses in library training given at the University of Illinois in connection with the regular summer session of that institution.

Mary Zeliaette Troy, 1912-13, Flora M. Brown, 1912-13, and Hazel Y. Shaw, 1912-13, have been appointed temporary catalogers at the University of Illinois library for the summer.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

New York state library

As part of their regular practice work, the juniors have been serving on regular schedule as extra assistants in the State library reading room. This practice work is under the direct charge of George G. Champlin, '95, assistant reference librarian.

The summer session began Wednesday, June 4, with 20 students in attendance.

The regular school will close Saturday, June 21, to permit as many of the students as desire to do so, to attend the meeting of the American library association at the Hotel Kaaterskill. The summer school will also be closed for probably two days for the same reason.

The lecture course in Library work with children, under the general charge of Clara W. Hunt, has been open to both regular and summer schools. It comprised 5 lectures by Miss Hunt, chiefly on administration of children's rooms, story telling and picture books; 4 lectures on various classes of children's books by Mrs Edna Lyman Scott; and 4 on the same general subject by Ethel P. Underhill. Other lectures by visiting lecturers have been:

May 17. W. H. Brett: The Cleveland branch libraries.

May 23. R. B. Farnam, specialist in drawing, State education department: Artistic bulletins.

June 7. A. W. Abrams, chief Visual instruction division, State education department: Visual instruction.

June 10. Mary L. Davis: Library house-keeping and supplies (2 lectures in the Elementary administration course).

June 13. A. L. Bailey: Bookbinding for libraries.

Venice A. Adkins, '12-'13, will begin work as assistant in the New York public library, July 1.

Clara V. Barber, '12-'13, goes to the Utica public library July 23, as general executive assistant.

Bolette L. Christiansen, '12-'13, has been appointed assistant in the New York public library and will begin her work there October 1.

William N. Daniells, '13, has been appointed assistant in the government documents room of the New York public library.

Edith N. Grout, '13, has been appointed desk assistant at Vassar College library and will begin her work in the fall.

Martha C. Kessel, '12-'13, has been engaged as reference assistant at the Grinnell College library and will begin her work in September.

Zulema Kostomlatsky, '12-'13, has taken a position in the Carnegie library at Pittsburgh and during the summer will have charge of the Mt. Washington branch library.

Bessie B. Scripture, '12-'13, goes to Columbia University library, August 1, as assistant in the catalog department.

The following juniors have taken temporary positions for the summer:

Misses Verne Bowles, Mabel Clark, Lucretia Vajle and Mr Rollin A. Sawyer, Jr., at the New York public library; Miss Amy Cowley and Mr Povl F. V. Slossmann at the Newark (N. J.) free public library; Miss Elizabeth Lowry at the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh; Miss Mary U. Rothrock, at the Cossitt library, Memphis, Tenn.

George G. Champlin, B. L. S., '95, assistant reference librarian, N. Y. state library, delivered an address on "The place of the library in the community" at the dedicatory exercises of the new Carnegie library of Alfred university, June 5.

F. K. WALTER.

Pratt institute

A new course of three lectures on "Social institutions of the community" was given to the class in June by Miss Hopkins of the school faculty. Two lectures were given by Miss Anna Tyler of the Children's department of the New York public library on Bulletin making and Story-telling.

The class has been at work for the past month on the problem of getting up an exhibition that should visually represent the work of the school. The matter was left entirely in the hands of the students and the results will be shown at the time of the annual exhibition of the institution,—June 12, 13 and 14. It is impossible at the time of writing to speak with certainty of the value of the exhibition in itself, but the value to the students themselves of this review of the year's work and the endeavor to make a graphic presentation of it is beyond question.

The members of the class of 1913 have received the following appointments:

Florence A. Adams, librarian of the Polytechnic preparatory school, Brooklyn.

Mabel E. Balston, substitute, Pratt Institute free library, summer, 1913.

Mabel Bogardus, assistant, New York public library.

Marguerite Burnett, cataloger, Provincial library, Victoria, B. C.

Adeline M. Cartwright, student children's librarian, Cleveland.

Harriet S. Dutcher, substitute, reference department, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa., July to October.

Margaret Hickman, librarian, Public library, Red Wing, Minn.

Mary E. Hoover, student children's librarian, Cleveland.

Mabel E. Jettinghoff, first assistant, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Caroline L. Jones, assistant, Y. W. C. A. library, Brooklyn.

Elin Lindgren, assistant, Pratt Institute free library.

Olive Mayes, children's librarian, Public library, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Jacqueline Noël, librarian, Public library, La Grande, Ore.

Mary A. Randall, student children's librarian, Cleveland.

Helen V. Stelle, librarian, Botanical Garden library, Brooklyn Institute museum.

Margrete Thunbo, cataloger, Yale University library.

Lena G. Towsley, assistant, children's room, Pratt Institute free library.

Edith K. Van Eman, assistant, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-director.

Syracuse university

The senior class are organizing and cataloging the nearly 4,000 v. of the mineralogy department of the university. The work is nearly completed.

The Rev W. M. Beauchamp, S. T. D., formerly archaeologist of the New York state museum and a writer and authority on the local history of Syracuse and vicinity, gave an interesting and instructive lecture before the library school on April 25, on the "Importance of collecting and preserving source material for local history."

On May 9, the school had the pleasure of a visit and talk on binding from Thomas P. Ayer, superintendent of the

binding department of Columbia university library.

The senior class and some of the freshmen and juniors of the library school attended the New York state library institute held at the Canastota public library the afternoon of May 13.

MARY J. SIBLEY, Director.

Western Reserve University

Commencement week at Western Reserve university extended this year from Sunday, June 8, through Thursday, June 12. On Monday, June 9, the annual luncheon given by the faculty to the class of 1913 and the alumni was held in the rooms of the Library school. Many gifts of flowers decorated the school rooms attractively and the large number of alumni who remained after their business meeting for the luncheon made it an unusually pleasant occasion. Informal speeches followed the luncheon. Miss Whittlesey as toastmistress introduced in turn, President Thwing, Dean Brett, Miss Comings, president of the Alumni association, and Miss Wilcox, president of the Class of 1913. Two important announcements were made; first, the resignation of Julia M. Whittlesey as director of the school, and second, the appointment of Alice S. Tyler as director, beginning with the next school year. The school loses Miss Whittlesey with regret which is minimized only by the fact that she remains in Cleveland and will continue to be interested in its welfare. The material evidence of this regret was expressed in presenting Miss Whittlesey with gifts from the class of 1913, the Alumni association, and the faculty. Miss Tyler, who has given a course of lectures each year since the school was organized, will take the directorship with full knowledge of the history of the school, and bring to it her years of broad experience. The class of 1913 before leaving presented the school with a tea wagon.

The class received their certificates at the general university commencement on Thursday, June 12. The speaker of the day was William Roscoe Thayer.

Examinations for entrance to the school were held June 13 and 14.

W. H. BRETT, Dean.

News from the Field

East

Genevieve Conant, N. Y. S. L., '13, has been appointed head cataloger at the Public library, Brookline, Mass., and will begin her duties in July.

Bertha E. Wood, N. Y. S. L., '11-'12, has resigned her position at Wesleyan University library, Middletown, Conn., and will go to Middlebury college, September 1, as cataloger.

Miss June R. Donnelly, for the past year acting librarian, Washington Irving high school, New York City, has accepted the position of associate-professor of library science at Simmons college, Boston.

Isabella M. Cooper, B. L. S., N. Y. S. L., '08, has resigned her position as instructor in the department of library science at Simmons college, and will go to the Brooklyn public library to take charge of the new sociological department.

The thirty-fourth annual report of the Public library of Woburn, Mass., emphasizes their co-operation in school work this past year. The books circulate at an average of 37 times per volume, and a noticeable result is the crowd of young people from the outlying districts in the library reading rooms.

The total circulation for the year was 60,022 v.; total registration in force, 3884; number of books in library, 51,124; number of periodicals, 108. Average per capita circulation among registered borrowers, 15.4; average per capita circulation for total population, 4; per cent of population registered as borrowers, 25; per cent of fiction circulated, 76; per cent of juvenile books circulated, 32. Total expenditures, \$7,709, of which \$4,187 was for salaries, and \$965 for books.

Central Atlantic

Mrs Mabel E. Colegrove, B. L. S., N. Y. S. L., '10, has resigned her position as librarian of the Heermane memorial library at Coxsackie, N. Y., to become head of the catalog department of the Free public library at Newark, N. J.

Alice A. Blanchard, N. Y. S. L., '03-'04, has been engaged as temporary assist-

ant by the Newark (N. J.) free public library.

Adelaide F. Evans, Pratt '02, has been appointed to take charge of the catalog department in the Public library, Newark, N. J. She will begin work the middle of August.

Jessamine E. Swartwout, N. Y. S. L., '08-'09, resigned as cataloger at the Newberry library, Chicago, to succeed Mrs Mabel E. Colegrove as librarian of the Heermance memorial library, Coxsackie, N. Y.

Edith Endicott, formerly of the Public library of Washington, D. C., and a graduate of the Pittsburg training school for children's librarians, has been appointed Children's librarian of the Public library of Youngstown, O.

The first annual report of the Public library of Rochester, N. Y., records a year of extension and activity, working in temporary quarters with the whole plan of the library and its work to be developed. A staff of 13 persons was chosen and organized and 18,000 new books were received and put in circulation. A branch was opened, the grade libraries in the public schools were overhauled, and various other activities started. The plan of growth contemplates a main building and a system of branch libraries and distributing stations. This calls for \$500,000 for a central building, and \$400,000 for ten branch buildings.

Central

Ono Mary Imhoff, who has been in the Legislative reference library at Madison, Wis., for six years, will leave July 1, to become librarian of a Progressive library which is to be started in New York.

A communication from the Carnegie Corporation notifies the Library board of Dayton, O., that \$15,000 has been voted by the Corporation for the re-stocking of the two branch libraries recently erected in Dayton.

Blanch L. Unterkircher, for the past three years librarian of the Public library at Marshfield, Wis., has resigned her position to become librarian at Superior, Wis.

The new library building of Purdue university at Lafayette, Ind., was dedicated June 10. An address by Demarchus C. Brown, state librarian of Indiana, on "The American library," was the feature of the occasion.

Adeline Baker, Ill., B. L. S., '02, who since the completion of her work at the University of Illinois library school, has been connected with the Northwestern University library, Evanston, Ill., has accepted the position of head cataloger in the Kansas Agricultural library at Manhattan, Kansas.

Alice S. Tyler, who has held the position of secretary of the Iowa library commission since its organization in 1900, has resigned her position to become director of the library school of the Western Reserve university, Cleveland, O.

Miss Tyler has seen the public libraries in Iowa grow from 41 to 114, and the traveling library stations from 90 to over 700.

The annual report of the Public library of Clinton, Iowa, records a circulation for 1912 of 79,495 v., of which 20,795 v. were juvenile books. Number of books on the shelves, 19,342; card holders, 9,145. The appropriation for the year was \$6,853. Books placed in eight schools record a circulation of 13,296.

D. Ashley Hooker, B. L. S., N. Y. S. L., '12, has been appointed assistant reference librarian at the John Crerar library, Chicago.

Gertrude Shearer, who has been assistant in the City library at Baraboo, Wis., for the last seven years, has been elected librarian of the Public library at Algona, Ia., to succeed Mrs M. L. Horton, resigned.

Margaret L. Kingsbury, Ill., ex-'13, has resigned her position as custodian of the history and political science seminar library of the University of Illinois. Miss Kingsbury will soon be married to Francis S. Foote, associate-professor of mining engineering at the University of California.

The special jury on designs submitted

for a new main library building for Detroit chose the design submitted by Cass Gilbert, New York. The library commissioners of Detroit have accepted the recommendation of the jurors. The jurors were: Dr Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, Professor Paul Philippe Cret, University of Pennsylvania, John Lawrence Mauran, a leading architect of St. Louis, and a member of the Public library board of that city, with Frank Miles Day of Philadelphia as professional adviser. The library authorities and the public of Detroit express themselves as well pleased with the choice.

Elva L. Bascom, who is severing her connection with the A. L. A. *Booklist*, will become the head of a new department in the Wisconsin library commission, the "Book selection and study-club department." Her time will largely be given to helping the libraries in the state in their book selection problems, and in developing the study-club work. She will also conduct the course in book selection in the library school.

The library staff of the Milwaukee public library took advantage recently of the occasion of Mr McLenegan's re-election as city librarian, to cover his desk with a sheet of pink roses, to which was attached a card bearing the words, "Congratulations and best wishes with assurance of co-operation from all the staff." In the three years Mr McLenegan has been librarian, many changes and improvements in the library administration have taken place, salaries have been made more equitable, and there is a spirit of harmony and co-operation in the library which is a source of pleasure to every one concerned.

With the close of the school year 1912-13, Julia M. Whittlesey tendered her resignation as director of the Western Reserve library school, in order to devote herself for the immediate future to her home and her aging mother, who needs her companionship. With the exception of one year taken for rest and recuperation, she has been with this school continuously from its beginning, as in-

structor and director, coming to it from Simmons College library school, where she was one of the first instructors. Miss Whittlesey and her many library friends are hoping that her withdrawal from library work may be only temporary.

South

At a recent election in Kansas City, Mo., a vote for issuing bonds for library branches in that city amounting to \$250,000, was carried by two-thirds majority.

The annual report of the Public library at Joplin, Mo., records a circulation of 75,777 v., with 24,343 v. on the shelves. Per cent of fiction circulated, 58. Per cent of children's books, 33. Active card-holders, 3,560.

There were 25 boxes of books, each containing 25 to 40 v. which have gone the rounds of all the schools during the year, reaching a circulation of 4,979.

Total receipts for the year, \$10,011. Total expenditures, \$7,524. Of this, \$2,211 was spent for salaries, and \$2,872 for books.

The annual report of the Public library at Houston, Texas, shows 36,000 v. on the shelves, with 13,000 card holders, and a circulation of 112,663 v.

A number of changes and reorganization of departments have added to the convenience of using the library, and gives very much more space for carrying on its work. A separate room for the children was installed, and a special children's librarian put in charge. Work with the schools has been greatly extended, and deposit stations established. There is pressing need for branch library work.

The important points in the report of the Public library, Dallas, Texas, for 1912 are as follows:

Installation of new stacks with a capacity of 35,000 v.

Establishment of a Municipal reference collection. With much material received from a number of American cities.

Six playground libraries conducted during the summer vacation period.

Fifteen distributing stations in schools, factories and settlement houses.

Gift of \$25,000 from Mr Carnegie for branch library building.

Two lists of books were furnished to local papers each week.

West

Walter L. Barnes, formerly connected with the New York state library, and recently librarian of the University of Colorado, died June 4. Mr Barnes' former home was in Ohio.

Annabel A. Hulburd, N. Y. S. L., '06-'07, resigned her position with the North Dakota University library and is now engaged as temporary cataloger at the University of Illinois library.

The third biennial report of the North Dakota library commission states that in two years the number of traveling libraries has increased from 138 to 356, and the number of books from 8,948 to 11,610. Schools lead as stations, receiving 196 libraries, 138 are placed in residences, and 133 in other places.

The Commission loans books and clippings by mail throughout the state, and makes a specialty of furnishing clubs and debaters with outlines and material.

Pacific Coast

A Municipal reference library has just been opened in the City Hall, Portland, Oregon, by the coöperation of the mayor and council with the Library association of Portland. The library will be a department of the Library association, space being furnished in the City Hall building by the city authorities.

Mrs C. B. Kelliher, late of the New York public library school, will take charge on July 1. Mrs Kelliher is visiting the municipal reference libraries of New York, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Chicago and Milwaukee on her way to the coast.

Lillian M. George, B. L. S., N. Y. S. L., '10, has been appointed cataloger of the Oregon agricultural college at Corvallis for the year beginning July 1. During the past two years Miss George has had charge of the cataloging and classifying at Purdue university.

The annual report of the Public library at Seattle, Wash., records the number of volumes on the shelves, 175,352;

number of registered borrowers, 46,857; home circulation, 852,126. Of this latter 64 per cent was fiction.

Total receipts for year, \$143,338. Total expenditures, \$167,952, roughly divided as follows: salaries, \$73,538; books, \$28,505; periodicals, \$2,493; binding, \$10,200; supplies, printing, repairs, etc., \$22,490; building sites and permanent improvements, \$30,724.

During the efficiency investigation by the City council, the expert efficiency engineers employed reported on the library:

The management as a whole is admirable. The library stands prominent not only as a city department of high efficiency, but as a leading library when viewed from the standpoint of public service. A return to civil service methods could not bring any better results.

In their report on the Seattle civil service, they stated that "the library department at 30 per cent less rates of pay has built up an organization distinctly more efficient than that of any department under civil service rules."

The California state library has received as a gift, the Adolph Sutro library, numbering about 125,000 volumes, and valued at \$1,000,000. Mr Sutro was a well-known citizen of California for many years, and had in his employ a staff of German and English experts who gathered books and manuscripts noted for their value and rarity, so that the Sutro library took rank as fourth in scientific, historical, and archaeological value among American libraries.

It was Mr Sutro's intention to erect a library built on the plan of the British museum for this collection. Unfortunately, his death in 1898 prevented the consummation of the plan, and the books, numbering at that time more than 200,000 volumes, remained in an inaccessible warehouse. The fire and earthquake of 1906 robbed the collection of 100,000 volumes, including much rare Mexican material.

The executrix, Dr Emma L. Merritt, a daughter of Mr Sutro, desired to dispose of the library in keeping with the wishes of the founder, and as the building and its maintenance were out of the question, after carefully studying various possibil-

ties and library conditions in the state, Dr Merritt finally concluded that the greatest good to the greatest number would result by giving the Sutro collection to the California state library. Few conditions surround the gift, one being opportune in that it provides that the library must remain in San Francisco.

Foreign

The *Zentralblatt für Volksbildungs-wesen*, edited by Dr A. Lampa of Prague, is now in its thirteenth year. The following paragraphs are taken from recent numbers:

Prof V. Bauer of Rakonitz, Bohemia, gives details of five years of experimenting with a plan for *Wanderbibliotheken* (traveling libraries) in the Czech country communities of his Bezirk (county). This plan is that books which have been read in any community be brought together at a central point, supplemented by gifts from individuals and from corporations and from public funds, and then given out to other communities. The books are lent in the fall and returned the following spring. The Bezirksausschuss (county commission) is considered the best organization for carrying out the plan with the co-operation of representative people. The property right of each community in its own books is maintained. In Rakonitz (9,000 inhabitants) 500 books were donated for these traveling libraries. The Bezirksausschuss voted 1,000 kronen (\$205) for books, to be paid in five annual installments, and for this sum about 500 more books were purchased. Statistics of circulation were kept for three years, and the registered readers read on an average 10 books a year. The object of the work was to give every farmer who wished to do so, a chance to read suitable books. In addition to the lending of books a skiopticon was purchased, a dramatic library was founded, a lending institution for books in domestic and political economy was established, and a course of lectures was arranged. The principle on which the work was accomplished was the union of several communities in order to make practicable that

which any one of them acting alone could not effect. The possible application of the same plan of procedure to libraries for soldiers and to public school libraries, and also to other counties of Bohemia is emphasized.

A movement has been inaugurated for the reform of the Vienna Arbeiterbibliotheken (workmen's libraries), the object being "with the help of new methods to bring the right book at the right time to the right reader." Emphasis is placed on the need of trained librarians.

The Oeffentliche Lesehalle (Public reading room) in Jena contained 25,785 volumes at the end of 1911, it lent during the year 144,824 volumes, it had 9,368 readers (6,231 men, 3,137 women) making on an average of 15.45 volumes to a person, the reading rooms in the Lesehalle were used by 559 persons per day on the average. The use of indicators or any attempt at a mechanical increase of circulation statistics is deprecated in the report, and a plea is made for the personal element in all relations with readers.

The Oeffentliche Bücherhalle (Public book hall), Hamburg, lent 1,600,000 volumes in 1911, 423,000 of this total being from the central library. The library considers its chief problem to be the fight against "Schundliteratur" (blood-and-thunder literature) in view of the widespread tendency of the masses to read criminal literature. The books of Conan Doyle, A. K. Greene, Streckfuss, Temme and Gaboriau are excluded from the library. Young people who have left school are eager in their use of the facilities of the Bücherhalle.

The Gesellschaft für Verbreitung von Volksbildung (Society for the extension of popular education) in 1911 expended 370,000 marks (about \$92,500) for Volksbibliotheken (popular libraries).

The Rickertstiftung zur Unterstützung von Volksbibliotheken in unbemittelten Gemeinden (Rickert foundation for the aiding of popular libraries in poor communities) has from its establishment in 1903 by Heinrich Rickert to the end of 1911 distributed 27,672 volumes among 1891 libraries.